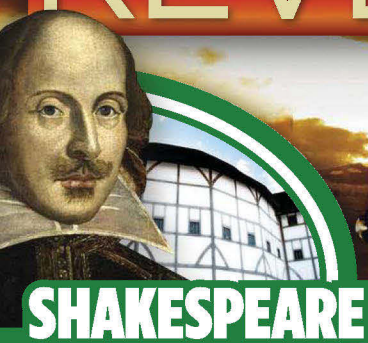


D-DAY TECH: THE INNOVATIONS THAT WON THE INVASION

HISTORY

REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 28 // APRIL 2016 // £4.50



SHAKESPEARE

A bard's eye view of
history, 400 years on

**1916
EASTER
RISING**

Terror on the
streets of Dublin

PLUS

**AMERICAN
REVOLUTIONARY WAR**
CHERNOBYL DISASTER
LIFE IN ANCIENT ROME
WWII P.O.W. ESCAPE

HISTORY'S GREATEST EXPLORERS

VIKINGS

The fearsome Norse raiders who
became the world's first globetrotters

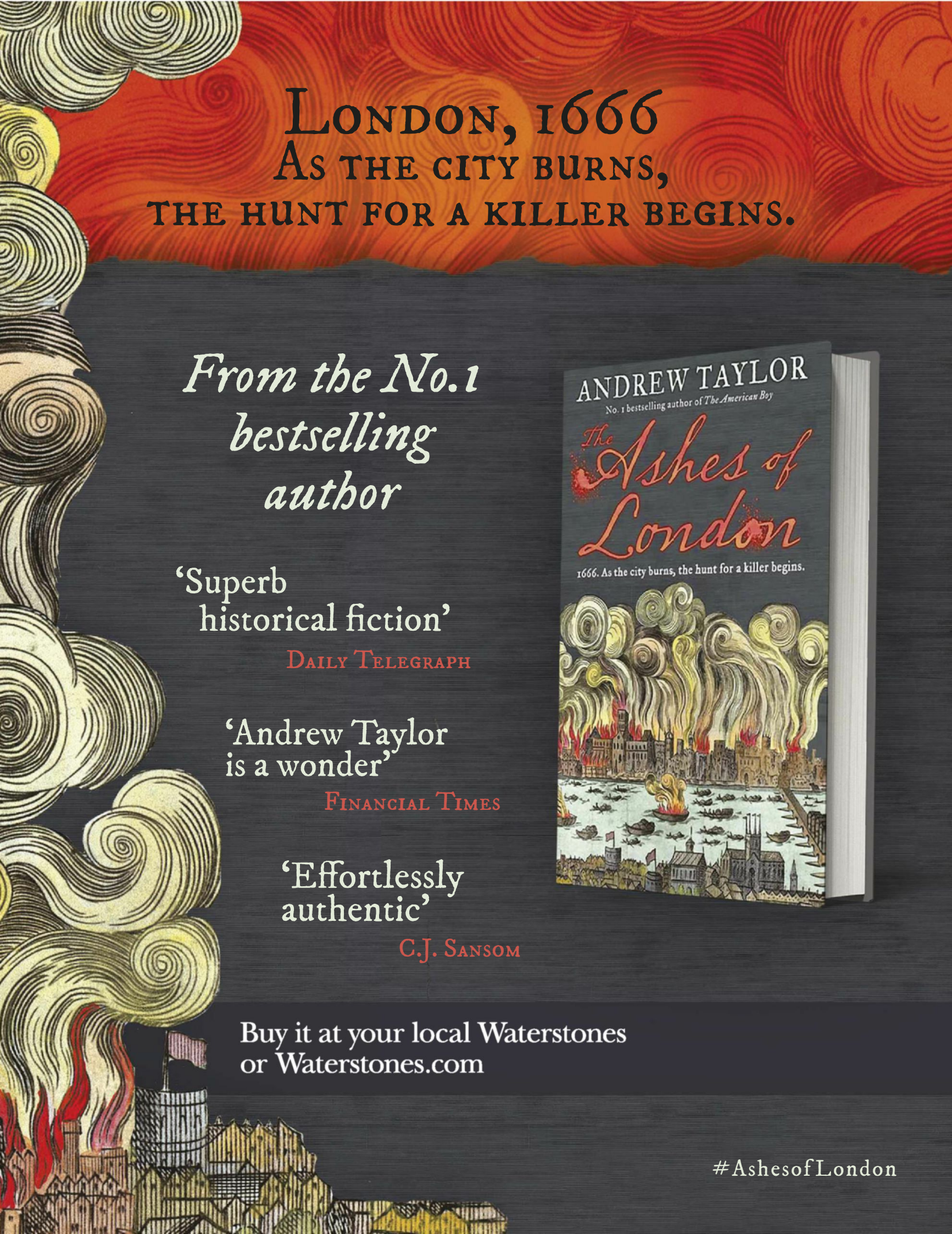


THE IT GIRLS
What did ladies
in waiting do?

**BEARDS, BREASTS
AND BUBBLES!**
10 bizarre taxes

HAILE SELASSIE
Ethiopia's holy
emperor





LONDON, 1666

AS THE CITY BURNS,
THE HUNT FOR A KILLER BEGINS.

*From the No.1
bestselling
author*

‘Superb
historical fiction’

DAILY TELEGRAPH

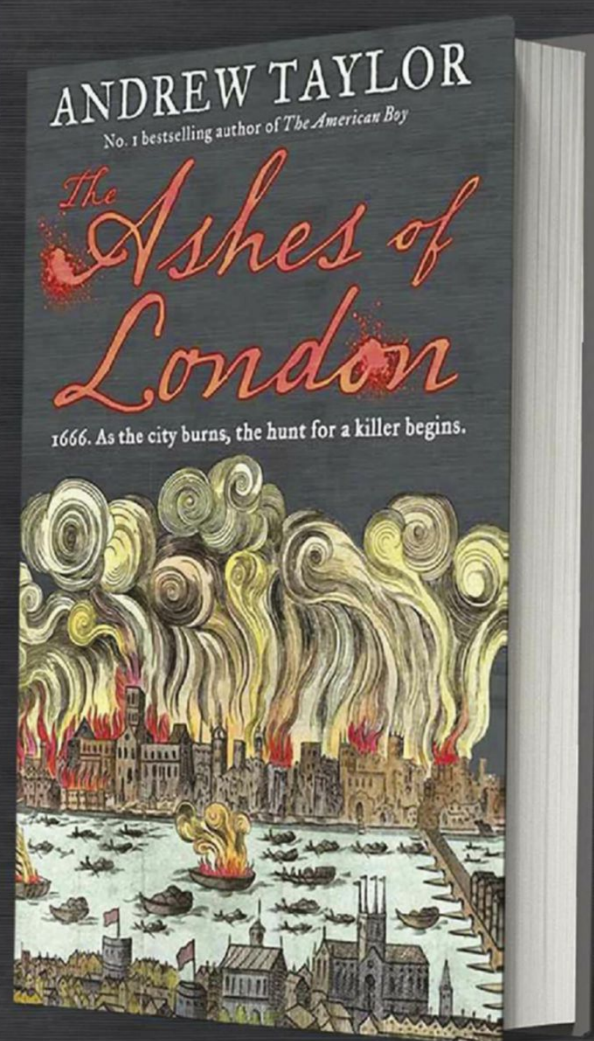
‘Andrew Taylor
is a wonder’

FINANCIAL TIMES

‘Effortlessly
authentic’

C.J. SANSOM

Buy it at your local Waterstones
or Waterstones.com



#AshesofLondon

Welcome



Think of the Vikings, and the image that generally springs to mind is of **hoards of barbarians in horned helmets** ransacking, pillaging and destroying everything in sight. But they were also probably **the greatest explorers in history**, expanding from

their native Scandinavia as far as Africa and America, centuries before Columbus. And, what's more, they did all this without maps, **navigating by watching the waves and whales**. Their story sets sail on page 33. (Spoiler alert: they didn't wear horned helmets!)

We also remember a couple of big anniversaries this issue. First up, we celebrate the **400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare** (p51) by looking at how his historical plays have shaped our view of history. We also mark **100 years since the Easter Rising** in Dublin (p27).

We have battles too – Lexington and Concord was the **initial conflict of the American Revolutionary War** (p66), while **D-Day would never have gone** ahead without some remarkable feats of engineering (p58).



The Vikings island-hopped their way from Scandinavia to North America, 500 years before Christopher Columbus went there

Lastly, don't miss Pat Kinsella's account of one of **the most astonishing escape stories you've ever heard**, when a group of Italian POWs decided to break out of their British camp during World War II, in order **to climb Mount Kenya** (p76). It's some story!

Happy reading.

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our May issue, on sale 28 April 2016

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ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...



THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

110

Metres that the flamethrower on the Crocodile tank, used in Normandy, could reach. See page 64.

0.25

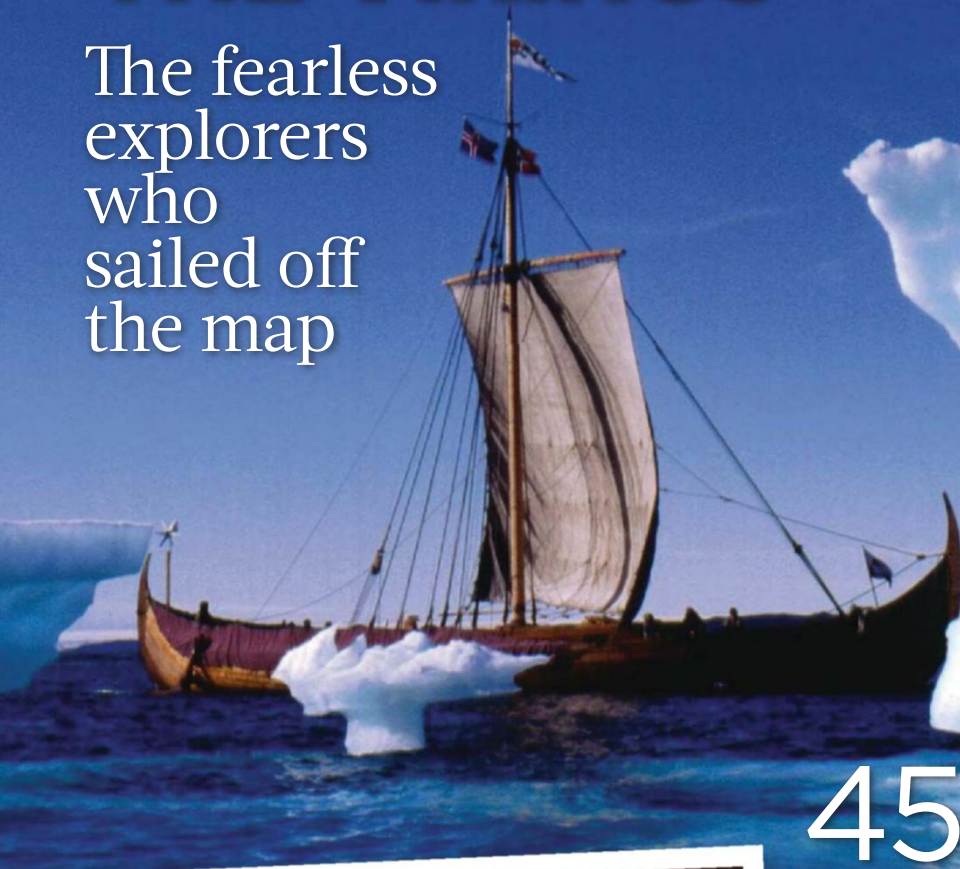
Milligrams of Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) ingested by Swiss scientist Dr Albert Hofmann on 19 April 1943 before Bicycle Day. See page 14.

66

The size, in inches, of Queen Victoria's bust towards the end of her life – her height was 59 inches. See page 98.

33 THE VIKINGS

The fearless
explorers
who
sailed off
the map



66

How Lexington and
Concord launched
an American dream



58

Tanks a lot Hobart
- seeing the funny
side of D-Day



45

Why Haile
Selassie was Bob
Marley's messiah



51

Four centuries of
the Bard's histories



90

Unwrapping the
animal mummies at
Manchester Museum



27

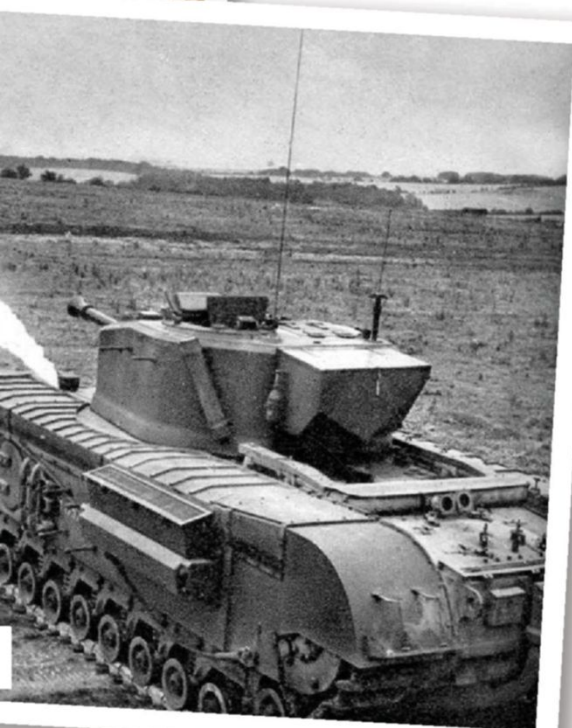
The Easter Rising:
Terror in Dublin
100 years ago





APRIL 2016

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More than warriors, the Vikings travelled the world, from Russia to America p33

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The enduring influence of Shakespeare's histories, 400 years after his death p51

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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

LETTER OF THE MONTH

LIVING MEMORY

I enjoyed your article (The Big Story: The War at Home, February 2016). However, I am 82-years-old and have a clear memory from the age of seven, so I would take issue with some of the statements.

Firstly, the 'Spiv'. This term didn't come into use until after World War II (about mid-1946 or later), when

gangs operating on a large scale, most black market traders and agents were ordinary people. Everybody was at it. They were shopkeepers, small traders, pub landlords and people who, before the war, would have operated as bookies runners, such as office cleaners or factory maintenance

“Although there were criminal gangs, most black market traders were ordinary people”

the shortages became more severe. The Spiv's product was rubbish. He sold damaged or discontinued stock, obtained in large quantities from an ordinary supplier at a 'knock-down' price.

He then sold these goods from a suitcase at the side of the road until 'moved on' by the police. The wartime black market was very different. The products offered were usually the genuine article, albeit at an outrageous price. Although there were criminal

men. I recall that, like everybody else, my dad would obtain the odd packet of 'fags' or my mum the odd half-pound of sausages from other than the official sources.

As for your alleged rationing of hot water – while most patriotically adhered to the maximum bath-water depth of five inches, it was just that. A recommendation. There is, and was, no way to ration hot water, other than limiting the supply of coal to heat it. Also, my parents' generation must be

HOME FRONT MEMORIES

Fred recalls how people were willing to bend the rules, and pay a price, for off-the-shelf goods during WWII

cackling with laughter in their graves at the notion of being made to limit their use of gas to one ring.

Tea, as you say was highly sought after, but coffee? The vast majority of working people at that time drank coffee only very occasionally, if at all, and would hardly have been inconvenienced by a shortage.

Finally, British smokers smoked Woodbines, Park Drive, Players and Capstan. There was no demand for American cigarettes, except possibly by teenagers who would cadge them off GIs.

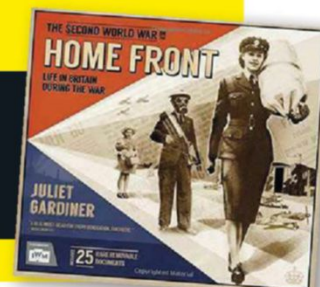
Fred Brian
Shropshire

Writer Gavin Mortimer replies:

Thank you for your fascinating reply to the Home Front article – I'm delighted it stirred so many memories. In particular, it's reassuring to learn that the Great British public ignored the government's recommendation to ration bath water!

I'll have to take issue with you, however, on the history of the word 'spiv'. According to *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, the term was in use from the late-19th century onwards, at least in some parts of the country.

Fred wins a copy of *The Second World War on the Home Front*, by Juliet Gardiner, published by Andre Deutsch, worth £30. This visual treasure trove, with over 200 photographs and documents, explores how ordinary people – like Fred – lived and worked during the war.



I'm in Canada and having to search long and hard for a copy of your great magazine! Finally got my hands on the Christmas issue!
@Kird

IN THE LOOP

Referring to 'What Hoopla' (I Read the News, March 2016), I was reminded of working a Saturday job at the Woolworths in Harrogate, while still at school.

In 1958, when I was 15 years old,

another girl and I were asked to stand on the counter and demonstrate hula hoops. I did this with much glee and aplomb – much to the embarrassment of my cousin, who had to admit to his crowd of teenage friends that it was one of relatives wildly gyrating away.

HULA GIRLS
Ailsa got into the swing of things to sell the hula hoop



We didn't get any extra pay for this, but were given trousers to preserve our modesty.

Ailsa Coe
via email

LEAP OF FAITH

I would like to add a dimension often overlooked, or perhaps not understood, to your article on the Tolpuddle Martyrs (Extraordinary Tale, March 2016).

All but one of the six men were Methodists. As you say, George Loveless was a Local (lay) Preacher. James Hammett was the only one who was not

a Methodist. The faith of these men underpinned all they did as they believed in the rightness (even righteousness) of their cause. God called, through the Prophets, the leaders of Israel and Judah to seek justice and mercy for their people.

Through Methodism, local preachers, class leaders and Sunday-school teachers learnt the skills to speak in public. Local preachers were also trained in doctrine, theology, Bible knowledge, church history and current affairs. Thus, the Chapel became the

f When I visited Washington, my goal was to stand on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, where Martin Luther King had stood (The Big Story, March 2016). I got goose bumps. Next month, I'm off on a US road trip, where I'll visit Memphis. I hope to go to the Lorraine Motel, now a Civil Rights museum, to pay respect to such an awesome man. Oh, and again, another great issue. Ronnie Hancox



TOO MANY MISTAKES!

The 1788 Battle of Karansebes should have made our Top Ten biggest blunders in history, according to Federico

on themselves. As a result, an estimated 10,000 Austrian soldiers perished.

Surely if these facts are correct, the Battle of Karansebes would rank as the greatest act of military self-sabotage in history.

Federico Tak
Oxfordshire

Editor replies:

What a great story, Federico. There were many military errors in our long list for this feature – perhaps there's another Top Ten feature in combat blunders...

BACK UP FOR BILLY

I am writing in support of Greg R Snyder's views (Believing in Billy, Readers' Letters, February 2016). I read an article in *The New Yorker* several years ago, which concerned the Lincoln County War. The author stated that John Tunstall was of English descent, whereas the Murphy-Dolan faction was of Irish ancestry. The view was that the ancient English-Irish conflict had travelled westward to American shores, and Billy the Kid got caught up in it. It's food for thought, at least.

David Schor
Pennsylvania, USA



Just got my magazine, really looking forward to the article 'Solving Longitude' (January 2016). Love your book! @jimfourteen

BE AN INSIDER

We want to know what you think. After all, the more we know about you, the better placed we are to bring you the best magazine possible. So we would like to invite you to join our online reader panel 'Immediate Insiders'. Interested? All you have to do is log on to www.immediateinsiders.com, fill out the short registration survey and we'll be in touch from time-to-time to ask for your opinions on the magazine and other relevant issues. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 26 are: **Paul Bailey**, Buckinghamshire
Gwyneth Briggs, Somerset
H Cullen, Midlothian
Congratulations! You have each won a copy of **The Face of Britain** by Simon Schama, worth £30. To test those little grey cells with this month's crossword, turn to page 96.

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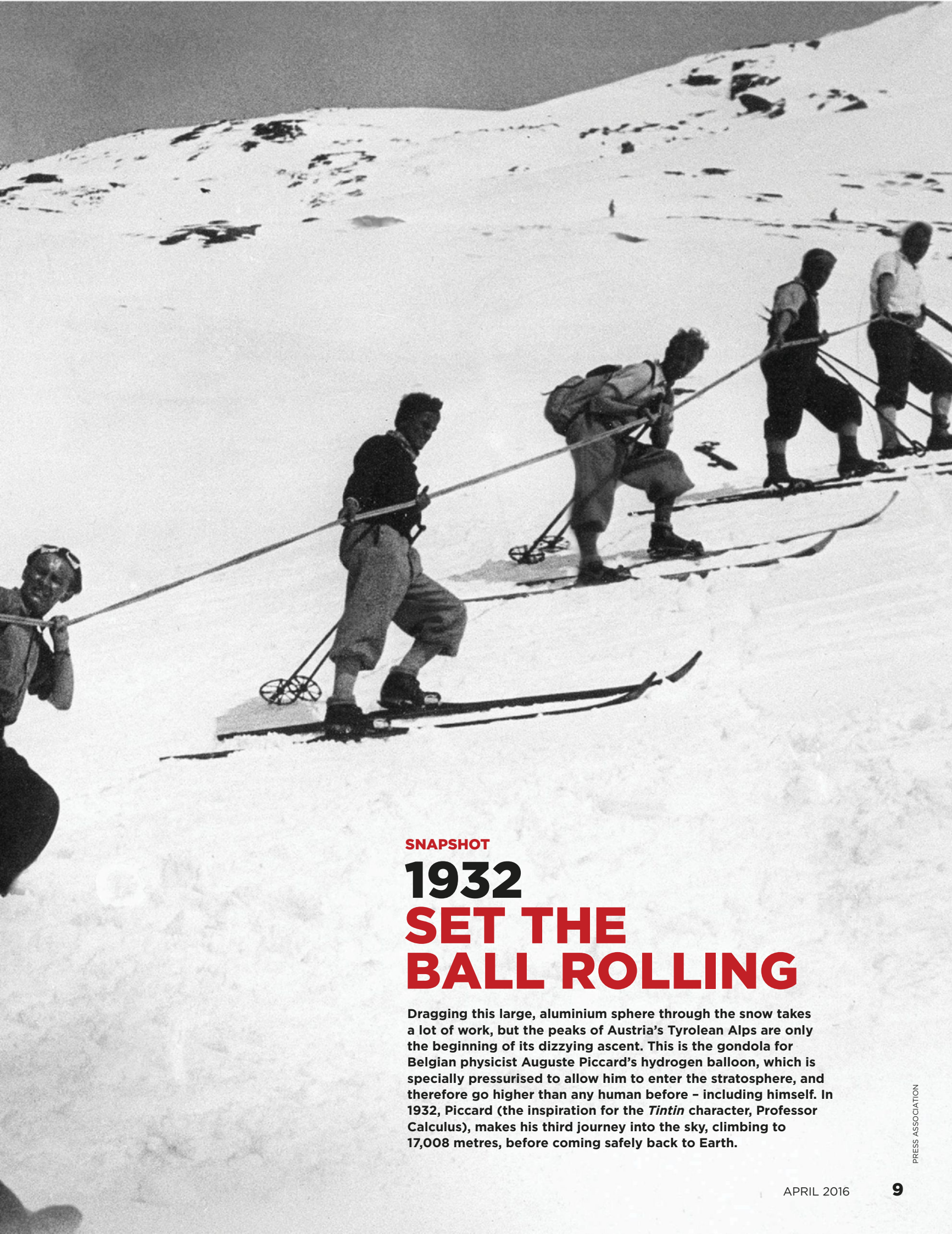
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TIME CAPSULE

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY





SNAPSHOT

1932 SET THE BALL ROLLING

Dragging this large, aluminium sphere through the snow takes a lot of work, but the peaks of Austria's Tyrolean Alps are only the beginning of its dizzying ascent. This is the gondola for Belgian physicist Auguste Piccard's hydrogen balloon, which is specially pressurised to allow him to enter the stratosphere, and therefore go higher than any human before – including himself. In 1932, Piccard (the inspiration for the *Tintin* character, Professor Calculus), makes his third journey into the sky, climbing to 17,008 metres, before coming safely back to Earth.



TIME CAPSULE
APRIL



SNAPSHOT

1919 THE SIGHT AQUATIC

On the morning of 15 April 1919, five months after the end of World War I, the people of Hastings wake up to quite a sight – a beached German U-Boat.

While on its way to the scrap yard, the scourge *SM U-118* breaks free of its tow and washes up on the Sussex town's shore, in front of the Queens Hotel. Tractors attempt to drag it back to sea and a destroyer even tries to break it apart with its cannons, but to no avail. The stubborn sub soon becomes a tourist hotspot. Thousands flock to see the vessel that, less than a year earlier, sank two British ships, with many paying a fee to clamber aboard.





SNAPSHOT

1936 BROLLY FOLLY

Deep in the lost-property department of Waterloo station, a beleaguered employee tries to get a handle on all the umbrellas left on train carriages. For the sake of the hundreds of forgetful brolly owners, let's hope it isn't raining out on the capital's streets. This is one task that has not been lost to history, as it seems people have yet to learn to look after their umbrellas – some 10,000 are still found on the London Tube every year.





"I READ THE NEWS TODAY..."

Weird and wonderful, it all happened in **April**



BATTLE OF THE HENRYS 1578 MINION MELEE MADNESS

During the French Wars of Religion (1562-98), the court of Henry III was divided. The *mignons* (above), meaning **'the dainty ones'** or 'darlings', were the King's favourites but they had made enemies of the supporters of Henry, Duke of Guise. On 27 April 1578, three members from each expressed their animosity through an **utterly pointless, tragic duel**. Two were cut down in the fighting, one succumbed the next day, another spent six weeks in hospital and the fourth fatality - who sustained 19 wounds - **died after 33 days of agony**. Needless to say, the 'Duel of the Mignons' did nothing to close the gap between the two Henrys.

FREE AS A BIRD 1983 THE HAWKIE-TALKIE

As we now live in an age of mobile phones, it may be difficult to understand why BT got so excited by its latest development in 1983 - the cordless phone. Named the BT Hawk, it was **sold as the phone that made its user as "free as a bird"** when the first 200 sets were sent out for its test launch on 14 April. "With a Hawk in the hand," the promotions read, "the frustration of rushing to a distant phone only to find it stops ringing as you arrive becomes a thing of the past."

British Telecom proudly introduce the Wireless



HOF ON A TRIP 1943 ACID TEST

Having accidentally sampled a tiny amount of his unknown synthesised drug LSD just a few days earlier, what did Swiss scientist Albert Hofmann think was a good idea? That's right, to take more. On 19 April 1943, he **ingested 0.25 milligrams**, but had to ask his assistant to escort him home when he started to feel strange. As it was wartime, car use was restricted, so the **pair had to go by bike** - it turned out to be quite a ride. After Hofmann was reassured that he wasn't about to die (and that **his neighbour wasn't a "malevolent witch"**), he began to enjoy the "kaleidoscopic, fantastic images" of the first-ever LSD trip, later coined 'Bicycle Day'. The mind-altering drug would go on to define the experiences of many in the 1960s, even if few can remember them.



TERRIFIC CONE 1904 WHAT A SCOOP!

In 1904, the world's eyes were on St Louis, as the Missouri city hosted the Olympics, the centennial celebrations of the Louisiana Purchase (a year late), and the World's Fair. And at the latter, beginning on 30 April, a fourth landmark event took place, which arguably tops them all (possibly with sprinkles). On a warm day, an **ice-cream vendor who had run out of dishes** was saved by the man on the neighbouring stall. Commonly named as Syrian immigrant Ernest Hamwi, the quick-thinker rolled some of his *zalabia*, a waffle-like pastry, to use as an **edible ice-cream cone**. The resulting mix was such a delicious hit, soon all ice creams at the fair were served that way.

VANQUISHING VENTOUX 1336 NEAR TO HEAVEN

There was a time when climbing a mountain just for fun would sound absurd, as any steep incline was nothing more than a nuisance to a journey. To the **14th-century Italian poet Petrarch**, however, conquering Mont Ventoux in Provence was a way to be closer to God. He wasn't the first to climb it, and **scholars dispute whether he did it at all**, but Petrarch's lengthy missive about his hike of the 1,912-metre mountain on 26 April 1336 has been seen ever since as embodying the spirit of the Renaissance. Presumably, that meant being hot, sweaty and having sore feet.



Hofmann thought LSD would be a useful psychiatric aid - he didn't think anyone would use it as a recreational drug.

VENUS SPOTTING 1820 UP IN ARMS

With his ship anchored in the Aegean, near the Greek island of Milos, a **young French officer, Olivier Voutier, decided to try his luck at antiques-hunting**. On 8 April 1820, he was digging on the site of an ancient theatre when he spotted a local farmer, who had been collecting stones, suddenly get very excited. The man, named Yorgos Kentrotas, had just **unearthed a semi-naked and unarmed woman** made out of marble. Seeing the value of such a find, Voutier paid a small sum for the statue - the now iconic 'Venus de Milo' - and had it swiftly returned to France, where it was presented to King Louis XVIII and **put on display in the Louvre**. 'Venus' is still there today.

"...OH BOY"

April events that changed the world

16 APRIL 1178 BC AN ODYSSEY ENDS

The traditional date - marked by a solar eclipse - of Greek hero Odysseus's return home in the epic poem, the *Odyssey*.

17 APRIL 1397 THE CHAUCER'S TALE

While at court, Geoffrey Chaucer reads *The Canterbury Tales* for the first time.

21 APRIL 1509 HENRY TUDOR THE SECOND

On the death of Henry VII, his second son is crowned as Henry VIII.

28 APRIL 1789 MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY

The rebellious crew seizes HMS *Bounty* and casts off Captain William Bligh and his loyalists in a lifeboat.

2 APRIL 1800 BEETHOVEN'S BRILLIANCE

After hiring a venue in Vienna, Ludwig van Beethoven leads the premiere of his First Symphony.

18 APRIL 1906 CALIFORNIA QUAKE

At 5.12am, a massive earthquake hits San Francisco, destroying 80 per cent of the city.

15 APRIL 1912 UNSINKABLE SINKS

Near the end of its maiden voyage, RMS *Titanic* sinks after hitting an iceberg.

AND FINALLY...

For a mere five seconds on 14 April 1881, a street in El Paso, Texas, became the scene of a terrifying shoot-out, which - despite its brevity - claimed four lives. During the **'Four Dead in Five Seconds' gunfight**, three were shot down by one man, the trigger-happy town marshal.



IT'S ALL GREEK

The statue, dated to the second century BC, is thought to be of the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite, but is known by the Roman name for the deity. The island of its discovery is also honoured in its unofficial title.

HAPPY APRIL FIRST! 1878 EDISON FEEDS THE WORLD A FOOL

There was a seemingly world-changing announcement in the US newspaper the *Daily Graphic* on 1 April 1878. A year after creating the revolutionary phonograph, **genius inventor Thomas Edison** claimed he had built a machine that could make "biscuit, meat, vegetables and wine" out of nothing more than air, water and "common earth". His **food machine could end world hunger**, which is why papers around the world re-printed the story alongside praise for Edison. A quick look at the date of the original, however, reveals this story was too good to be true.





DAILY EXPRESS

Wednesday April 30 1986

20p

THE VOICE OF BRITAIN



Russia admits worst atom plant disaster ever

NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE IS HERE

POISONED EARTH

The nuclear disaster released several hundred times more radiation than the **bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki**. The area around Chernobyl will not be safe for humans for another 20,000 years.

- More than 2,000 dead
- Thousands more doomed
- Help us! plea to the West

By JAN GREEN in Moscow
and MICHAEL EVANS in London

THE radiation nightmare the world has long dreaded became terrifying reality last night.

The Russian nuclear power plant disaster was feared to have killed at least 2,100 people, despite Soviet attempts to play down the tragedy.

U.S. spy satellites produced photographic evidence that a second of the four reactors at the Chernobyl plant, north of Kiev, may be leaking radioactivity.

Experts warned the disaster could claim 10,000 lives through lung cancer over the next 10 years. Kremlin chiefs, slammed by the West for hushing up the catastrophe, sent in squads of "suicide" workers to try to quell the inferno raging at Chernobyl. They face conditions "hotter than hell" and the job could take months. Some are unlikely to come out alive.

A U.S. Intelligence source said: "Smoke is still billowing from the site. The roof has been blown off and large portions of the walls (of the reactor) have caved in."

A massive evacuation programme is under way.

Page 2 Column 5



FAREWELL TO THE DUCHESS

THE QUEEN, visibly upset, walks behind the fly-bedecked coffin of the woman who had once hoped to wear a crown. This was the scene yesterday as the Duchess of Windsor was laid to rest.
Jean Rook: Page 5



WE'VE WON AN OSCAR!

CHAMPAGNE flowed at the Queen Vic last night at East-Enders stars toasted success. The cast were in high spirits after they collected an "Oscar" as BBC TV Programme of the Year.
Prize knees-up: Page 7

**SUICIDE SQUADS ON
STANDBY: PAGES 2 & 3**

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

On **30 April 1986**, the world's worst nuclear disaster goes public, days after the event

"AN ACCIDENT HAS OCCURRED AT CHERNOBYL" *VREMYA NEWS*

When an ill-conceived experiment at Chernobyl nuclear power station went wrong on 26 April 1986, the consequences were catastrophic.

Technicians on Reactor Number Four at the Soviet plant, in Ukraine, hoped to ascertain whether the reactor turbine could power the cooling pumps, in case of electrical failure. They did this by running the reactor on low power but disabling emergency safety systems – including the automatic shutdown. The increasingly unstable reactor overheated but tests weren't cancelled, regulations were ignored and mistakes piled up until 1.23am, when a chain reaction in the core caused a power surge and meltdown. The reactor exploded, sending flames and radioactive material 300 metres into the sky.

What followed was a tragic and costly cover-up. Firefighters weren't informed of the radiation, so were exposed to fatal doses, while the evacuation of the nearby city of Prypyat didn't begin for 36 hours. It was only after monitoring stations in Sweden (620 miles away) picked up high radioactivity in the air that the accident was made public on Russian news.

The radiation was contained by early May, but at extreme risk to the workers who built a concrete-and-steel 'sarcophagus' over the reactor. In the immediate aftermath, 32 people perished due to radioactivity, but countless more died later as radiation blew as far as Russia, France and Italy. An 'exclusion zone' extended nearly 19 miles from the station, but that couldn't stop the poisoning of wildlife, a drastic rise in cancer cases and worldwide fear that nuclear power was far from safe. ☹

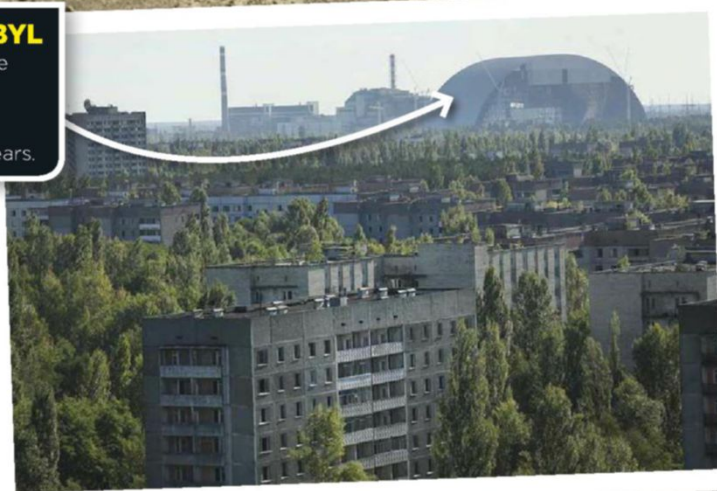


CONTAINING CHERNOBYL

As it was hastily constructed, the sarcophagus has deteriorated, so a **New Safe Confinement is currently being built** to shield Reactor Number Four for 100 years.

MELTDOWN

ABOVE: A restricted zone is established around Chernobyl
ABOVE RIGHT: The damage at Reactor Number Four
RIGHT: Chernobyl, as it is today



1986 ALSO IN THE NEWS...

8 APRIL After quarrelling with his local council, Hollywood icon **Clint Eastwood runs for and is elected Mayor of Carmel, California** – polling 2,166 votes against 799 for his opponent.

13 APRIL In a "Gesture destined to pass into history", John Paul II becomes the **first Pope to visit a Jewish house of prayer**. He is met at Rome's Great Synagogue by a 1,000-strong congregation.

21 APRIL During a two-hour live TV special, host Geraldo Rivera opens notorious gangster **Al Capone's secret vault** for the first time, where he finds nothing but empty moonshine bottles.

THE EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF...

Ballet icon Margot Fonteyn, the would-be revolutionary

1959 PRIMA BALLERINA JOINS COUP TO TOPPLE PANAMA GOVERNMENT

For nearly 40 years, she was queen of the ballet stage, but Margot Fonteyn once set her sights on becoming Queen of Panama...

With unmatched musicality and grace, technical skill bordering on perfection, and passion stamped on every performance, there was no one like Margot Fonteyn. From her debut as a teenager in 1934 to her famous partnership with Rudolf Nureyev, the British ballet dancer was hailed as the greatest of her – perhaps any – generation. Fonteyn was, quite simply, born to dance.

What came less naturally, however, was her one-time performance as a political revolutionary. In April 1955, it was revealed she had become embroiled in a somewhat farcical coup to place her Panamanian husband in power – which was crushed in a matter of hours and left the world's press asking rather strange questions, such as whether the prima ballerina of the Royal Ballet carried a gun.

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Margaret Evelyn Hookham was born, in the Surrey town of Reigate, on 18 May 1919, and

it didn't take long before she donned her first leotard. She was four when her mother signed her up to ballet classes along with her older brother, and she continued to dance throughout her childhood, which included a six-year family move to China.

From the age of 14, she studied at the prestigious Sadler's Wells ballet school in London (today, the Royal Ballet School), where she excelled, made her debut, was named prima ballerina and took on a new name, Margot Fonteyn.

Audiences and dancers alike ran out of superlatives to describe her near-perfect physique and poise – remarkable in a world where every blemish was, and still is, magnified – in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake* and her iconic 1939 turn as Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*. Throughout the 1940s, she worked with a host of dancers, composers and choreographers, notably Sir Frederick Ashton, but it was the Royal Ballet's 1949 tour of the United States that hurled Fonteyn into the international spotlight.

Seemingly single-handed, she brought ballet to the masses.

SLAPDASH COMEDY

So what would compel this ballet star, by now a dame, to get involved in politics? In 1955, Fonteyn married Dr Roberto Emilio Arias, Panama's ambassador to Britain and son of a former President. 'Tito' plotted to oust Panama's authoritarian government and seize power, and his wife consented, seeing the whole thing as an adventure. "She did it for a lark," a friend of Fonteyn's later claimed, as she thought she would end up "Queen of Panama". It was not to be. The coup turned out to be less of an action-adventure and more, as one British diplomat described it, of a "slapdash comedy".

The plan, set for April 1959, was for the couple to land their luxury yacht on Panama's coast, before they would collect supporters and ammunition and seize a nearby highway, an important artery of the country. Fonteyn even travelled to New York to ask a friend, connected to the clothing industry, for 500 uniforms and armbands for their rebel army. The coup would be assisted by men from Fidel Castro's Cuba. Yet it was a risible failure.

Fonteyn was arrested after fishermen alerted authorities, Tito went on the run, students who were going to help capture the

capital rose up too early so were dealt with easily and Castro's troops never showed up.

After spending 24 hours in a Panama City prison, Fonteyn was sent back to Britain, where she was mobbed by journalists. Most thought she was an entirely innocent bystander, with no idea of her husband's plans. The shadow Foreign Secretary (NHS founder Aneurin Bevan) welcomed her home by saying, "The British public did not appreciate having seen her in the role of the swan, then seeing her in the role of a decoy



"At the end of *Swan Lake*, when she left the stage in her great white tutu, I would have followed her to the end of the world."

Rudolf Nureyev, who formed one history's most enduring dance partnerships with Margot Fonteyn

ARMED AND DANGEROUS?

While being quizzed by the press, Fonteyn was in high spirits. When one reporter asked **whether she carried a gun**, she replied with a laugh, "I won't answer that, because you can guess whether I carried a gun or not!"

FACE THE MUSIC
Fonteyn is grilled by journalists after being released from prison and kicked out of Panama

TUTU TO COUP

With her back turned, Fonteyn talks with Fidel Castro (left) shortly after he seized power in Cuba

MAKING A NAME

The ballerina chose her stage name to represent her half-Brazilian mother's heritage. 'Fonteyn' **came from her grandfather**, a Brazilian industrialist called Antonio Fontes.

PAS DE DEUX
Fonteyn and her partner Rudolf Nureyev in 1969

duck." Documents released in 2010, however, demonstrated that Fonteyn was willingly involved. Once home, she met with government minister John Profumo (who would get caught up in his own scandal two years later) and related the bizarre series of events. "I had to pinch myself several times during her visit," he later wrote, "to be sure I wasn't dreaming the comic opera story which she unfolded."

PARTNERS IN THE SUBLIME

If anyone thought the coup signalled the end of Fonteyn's

career – as she was over 40, many believed she was close to retirement anyway – they were mistaken. Actually, the best was yet to come. In 1962, she performed for the first time with Rudolf Nureyev, a 24-year-old who had defected from the Soviet Union. Their partnership was a revelation, with their debut at Covent Garden receiving 23 curtain calls, and that was only the beginning.

Many regard Fonteyn and Nureyev as the greatest dancing partnership in history. As they became close friends (or, as

rumoured, lovers), they danced together for the next 17 years, when Fonteyn finally retired, aged 61. She spent the rest of her life on a cattle farm in Panama to give constant care to her husband – who had been shot and paralysed in 1964 – but she stayed in touch with Nureyev every week. In 1991, Fonteyn died from cancer. 📍



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know what extraordinary tale we should tell next...

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com





GRAPHIC HISTORY

Globe-trotting through the ages

1521 FIRST AROUND THE WORLD

On 27 April 1521, Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan died in the Philippines. The crew of his Spanish ship went on to complete the first circumnavigation of the world, starting a tradition for adventure types...



Setting off with **270** men across **five** ships, Magellan's ill-fated armada weathered storms, suppressed mutinies and warred with natives until just **18 men** and **a single ship** remained.



The very first circumnavigation

WHO Portugal's Ferdinand Magellan, then Spain's Juan Sebastián Elcano
WHEN 1519-22
HOW In a Spanish carrack, the *Victoria*
ROUTE Seville, Spain - Strait of Magellan - Philippines - Cape of Good Hope - Seville, Spain



First under a single captain

WHO British explorer Francis Drake, plus 164 men
WHEN 1577-80
HOW Sailed in a galleon, the *Golden Hind*
ROUTE Plymouth, England - Strait of Magellan - Ecuador - Oregon - Indonesia - Cape of Good Hope - Plymouth, England



First private traveller

WHO Florentine merchant Francesco Carletti
WHEN 1594-1602
HOW multiple ships
ROUTE Seville, Spain - Cape Verde - Mexico - Japan - India - Florence, Italy



First woman around the world

WHO French valet Jeanne Baré in Louis de Bougainville's 330-strong crew
WHEN 1766-69
HOW Two ships - a frigate named *Boudeuse* and a fluyt, the *Étoile*
ROUTE Nantes, France - Strait of Magellan - Fiji - Batavia - Cape of Good Hope - St-Malo, France



First in an ironclad vessel

WHO Spanish naval officer Casto Méndez Núñez
WHEN 1865-88
HOW Aboard the armoured frigate, *Numancia*
ROUTE Cadiz, Spain - Strait of Magellan - Asia - Cadiz, Spain

NB The routes shown on the globe are approximations; they are not accurate representations of the various routes taken





First to cycle around the world

WHO English cyclist Thomas Stevens
WHEN 1884-86
HOW On a penny-farthing
ROUTE San Francisco, USA – New York, USA – UK – Turkey – Japan – San Francisco, USA

13,500

According to Stevens, he cycled around 13,500 miles. That means that about **11,401 miles** were covered by boat.

In 1999, the first non-stop **hot-air balloon circumnavigation** was completed by Switzerland's Bertrand Piccard and Brit Brian Jones. Their **28,431-mile flight** took 19 days



First solo navigation

WHO American sailor Joshua Slocum
WHEN 1895-98
HOW Sailed on a sloop oyster boat named *Spray*
ROUTE Boston, USA – Spain – Cape Horn – Australia – Cape of Good Hope – Cuba – Newport, USA



First pedestrian

WHO Romanian globe-trotter Dumitru Dan
WHEN 1910-23
HOW With his own two feet
ROUTE Romania – India – USA – break for World War I – Romania

Dan **kept walking** even when he was **crossing the oceans**, by pacing up and down the ships' decks.



First aerial circumnavigation

WHO Eight pilots of the Douglas World Cruiser team
WHEN April-September 1924
HOW Four Douglas World Cruisers, based on the design for the Douglas DT bomber
ROUTE Seattle, USA – Japan – Turkey – UK – Greenland – Seattle, USA



First underwater circumnavigation

WHO American Captain Edward L Beach
WHEN February-April 1960
HOW On the USS *Triton* submarine
ROUTE St Peter and St Paul Archipelago, Atlantic Ocean – Cape Horn – Philippines – Cape of Good Hope – St Peter and St Paul Archipelago, Atlantic Ocean



First orbit of the Earth

WHO Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin
WHEN 12 April 1961
HOW Aboard Vostok-1
ROUTE Kazakhstan – Hawaii – Strait of Magellan – Egypt – Kazakhstan



First circumpolar navigation

WHO British adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes and co
WHEN 1979-82
HOW By surface only
ROUTE London, UK – South Africa – South Pole – USA – North Pole – London, UK



First helicopter

WHO: Australian entrepreneur Dick Smith
WHEN: 1982-83
HOW: In a Bell 206 helicopter
ROUTE: Texas, USA – UK – Australia – Texas, USA

The first successful trip round the world with the **loss no men to scurvy** was James Cook's 1768-71 expedition, completed aboard the HMS *Endeavour*

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

American and Soviet troops join hands, signalling the final days of World War II

1945 EAST MEETS WEST

At a river in the heart of Hitler's Germany, the United States and Soviet Union came together, but while war united them, peace would split the superpowers apart...

When US 2nd Lieutenant Bill Robertson went on patrol on 25 April 1945, he had no idea he was about to make contact with the Russians. It was only a matter of time before the two fronts met – with the Germans pushed back from the west since D-Day and the Red Army swiftly advancing from the east – but intelligence had been sketchy.

As Robertson drove into Torgau (a German town south of Berlin) and approached the River Elbe, he heard that a Soviet force was on the east bank at that moment. To minimise the chances of the Russians accidentally firing on his patrol, Robertson hastily daubed a bedsheet with red and blue powder to make it look like the Stars and Stripes.

When Soviet Lieutenant Alexander Silvashko saw this makeshift flag, he ordered one of his men to cross the damaged bridge over the Elbe. He was met half-way by Robertson. They shook hands, exchanged mementos (wristwatches and uniform patches), shared a toast of schnapps and posed for photos.

BRIDGE OF FRIENDSHIP

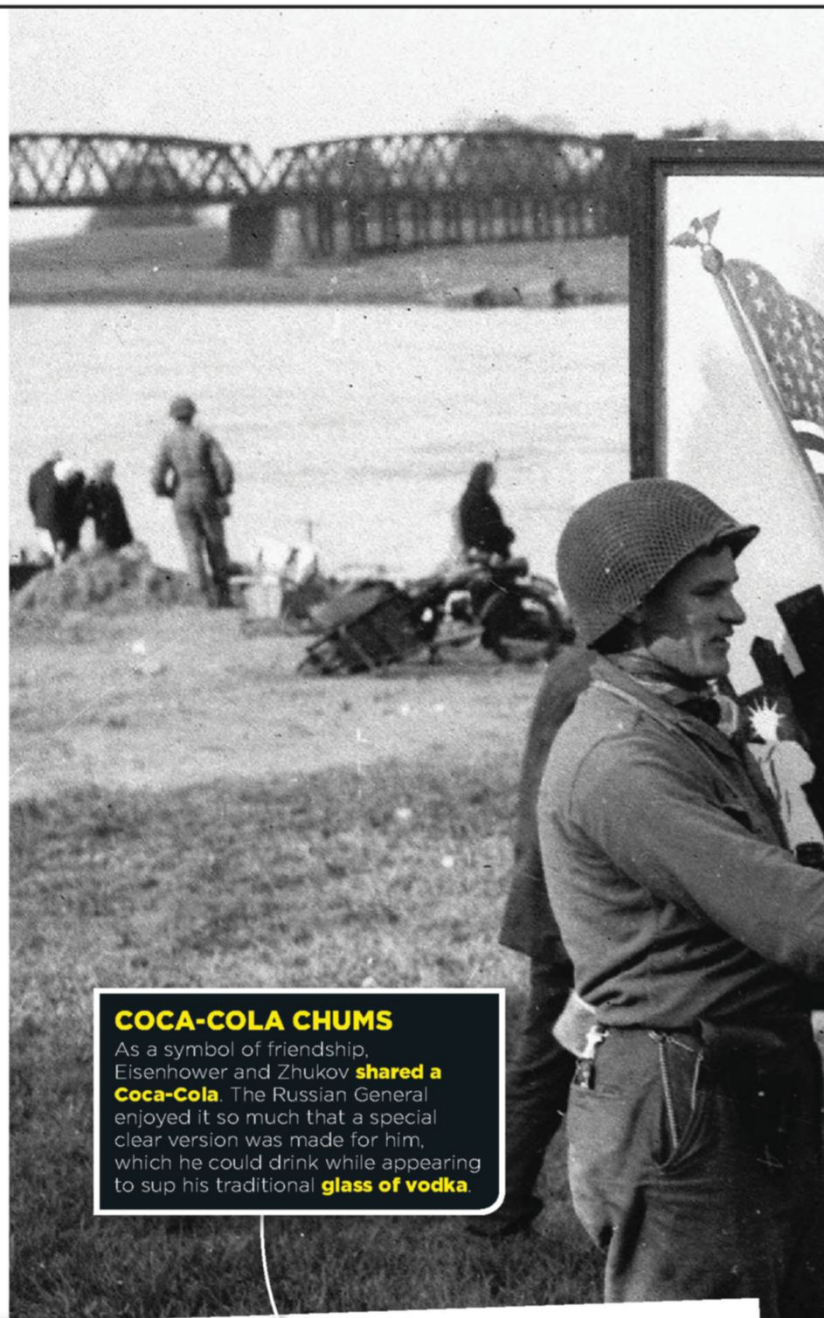
The following afternoon, the official meeting of East and West took place on the river banks,

celebrating what became known as 'Elbe Day'. To mark the joining of the two forces – which meant that Hitler's army had been cut in half – commanders and dozens of soldiers from each side met at Torgau. Meanwhile, statements were released by Washington, Moscow and London affirming their commitment to crush the Third Reich.

In truth, that didn't take long. Hitler committed suicide in his bunker only five days after Robertson met Silvashko, and Germany's unconditional surrender followed on 7 May.

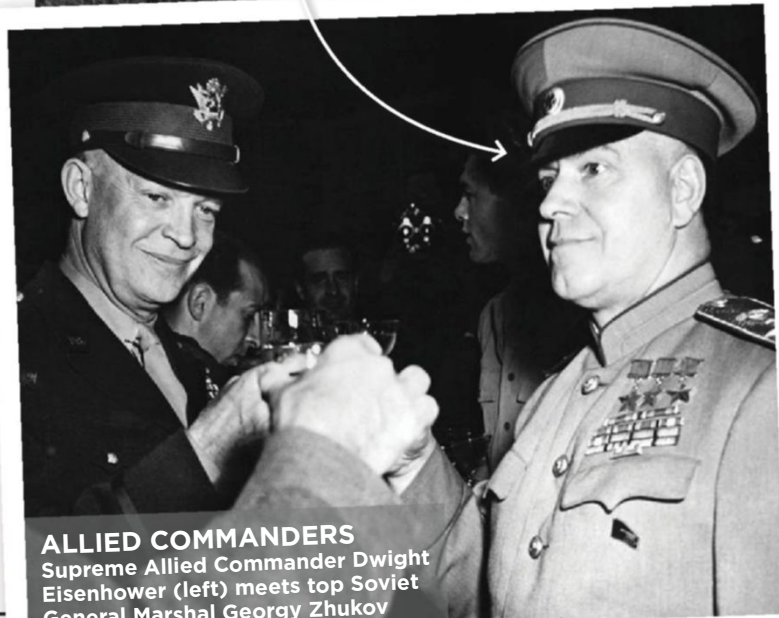
In Europe, World War II was over, but the friendly spirit of Elbe Day wasn't to last. Even the peace agreement caused a rift between the Western and Eastern powers, and relations continued to worsen as the conquered Germany was divided into occupation zones, in accordance with the 1945 Yalta agreement.

Things never recovered and the US and Soviet Union spent the next 40 or so years in conflict. But, even during the depths of the resulting Cold War, the day when their armies formed a bridge of friendship over a German river was remembered with fondness and hope for reconciliation. ☉



COCA-COLA CHUMS

As a symbol of friendship, Eisenhower and Zhukov **shared a Coca-Cola**. The Russian General enjoyed it so much that a special clear version was made for him, which he could drink while appearing to sup his traditional **glass of vodka**.



ALLIED COMMANDERS

Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower (left) meets top Soviet General Marshal Georgy Zhukov



**“This is not the
hour of final
victory in Europe,
but the hour
draws near”**

US President Harry S. Truman

COMRADES IN ARMS

As US and Soviet soldiers posed for photos like this, British PM Winston Churchill joined national leaders in making a statement: **“We meet in true and victorious comradeship** and with inflexible resolve to fulfil our purpose and our duty. Let all march forward upon the foe.”

FRIENDS FOR A DAY

Replicating the billboard behind them, a soldier of the US 1st Army shakes hands with a young Soviet counterpart - but the international camaraderie wasn't to last

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HISTORY
REVEALED

Red alert for the Sumatran tiger. Fauna & Flora International seeks action from readers of History Revealed in response to 600% increase in poaching threat. 29 April deadline.

Photo: Euan Bowen-Jones/FFI



This Critically Endangered tiger has been pushed to the edge of extinction – 350 or fewer remain. Give to stop the poachers at www.FFIsumatrantiger.org

Latest figures just released show 350 Sumatran tigers remain - down from 500. The figures, from the Sumatran Ministry of Forestry, show how the ruthless assault from poachers is pushing this magnificent creature right to the edge of extinction.

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has put out an urgent call to the global community to save the last Sumatran tigers currently existing in the wild – and specifically to employ more rangers. There are now only around 350 Sumatran tigers left.

FFI is urgently seeking funds to step up their crucial conservation programme in Kerinci Seblat National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia. In order to safeguard the future existence of these magnificent creatures, it is vital that more rangers are employed.

Right now, the Sumatran tiger faces a number of very serious threats, which are putting their very survival in jeopardy. And, sadly, they are all man-made threats.

Poaching activity has reached unprecedented levels. Hunters make good money from the tiger's beautiful skin and demand is constantly growing. Also, its bones are illegally exported to use as ingredients in traditional Asian medicines.

What is really worrying now is that poachers have increased the number of tiger snares laid by 600% since 2011 and snares are being found at record levels.

This is against a backdrop of a very serious loss of habitat. In the last ten to 15 years, natural forest cover in Sumatra has been slashed by almost a staggering 40%. And recently, great swathes of forest have been consumed by fire, destroying more of the forest habitat.

These majestic forest dwellers have been designated as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, making the Sumatran tiger one of the most endangered tiger subspecies on the planet. This is a rating reserved for animals that face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Latest surveys have indicated that there may now be as few as 350 existing in the wild. Kerinci Seblat National Park is one of the last places on Earth where they can still be found.

Today, around 170 tigers live in and around Kerinci Seblat National Park – the largest known population of tigers anywhere in Sumatra. Since 2007 the number of tigers in the park has stabilised – largely thanks to the vital work of FFI's Tiger Protection and Conservation Programme. However, now the upsurge in poaching puts these gains under threat.

Debbie Martyr, FFI Team Leader of the Kerinci Tiger Project in Sumatra, says:

"Ranger teams walked almost 1100 miles on forest patrols in and bordering the national park and destroyed more than 60 active tiger snares - an increase of 600% since 2011. That is why we need to step up patrol regimes".

Tiger populations are dreadfully fragile.

If FFI cannot recruit more rangers to protect the tigers against the increased efforts of the poachers all our good work could be undone.

For all of these reasons, it's now absolutely vital that we

Latest tiger population figures released: 350 Sumatran tigers remain - down from 500. Urgent support needed for action plan.

- £83,131 is needed to help us fund more rangers and step up action against the poachers in Kerinci Seblat National Park.
- This is one of the final strongholds of the incredibly rare Sumatran tiger, a place where the battle to save the Sumatran tiger will be won or lost.
- FFI's work here could be all that stands between the Sumatran tiger and extinction.

increase our patrols to protect tigers from poachers – and work towards greater protection for their delicate habitat.

If we're going to save the Critically Endangered Sumatran tiger from complete extinction, it's vital that we have the means to take action now.

FFI must raise £83,131. To do that, the charity is asking for readers of History Revealed to make an urgent contribution today.



"If you value the natural world – if you think it should be protected for its own sake as well as humanity's – then please support Fauna & Flora International."

Sir David Attenborough, OM FRS
Fauna & Flora International vice-president

Please send a gift, by no later than 29 April to help safeguard the future survival of the last few remaining wild Sumatran tigers.

Together, we can save the Sumatran tiger from extinction – but only if we take action immediately.

To take action for the Sumatran tiger please go to www.FFIsumatrantiger.org or cut the coupon.

If the coupon to the bottom right is missing, please send your cheque (payable to FFI) to: Sumatran Tiger Appeal, FREEPOST FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL, The David Attenborough Building, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ by 29 April at the very latest.



Stop press - Poacher apprehended with help from FFI

A key tiger poacher has recently been arrested, striking a major blow against the trade in tiger bones and skins. To see a magnificent wild creature like a Sumatran tiger reduced to skin and bones is deeply distressing.

Fauna & Flora International, founded in 1903, was the world's first international conservation organisation. Today its work spans the globe, with over 140 projects in more than 40 countries. It has a strong history of finding creative solutions to conservation problems and of working with local communities. FFI is supported by the most eminent scientists and members of the conservation movement.

Dear readers of History Revealed: Fauna & Flora International (FFI) has launched an emergency appeal, backed by Sir David Attenborough, to raise £83,131 to save the Sumatran tiger.

These items are vital to help save the remaining Sumatran tigers from extinction.

£6,500 could buy a replacement 4WD jeep to transport rangers to distant patrol sites - our current vehicle has severe engine problems.

£3,000 could help get two extra rangers into the field to prevent poaching.

£400 could buy camping equipment or boots for 28 rangers.

£72 could buy first aid kits to treat injured rangers whilst out on patrol.

£32 could help buy charging units for telephones; essential to getting extra help if poachers are spotted.

Donations large or small will help us save the Critically Endangered Sumatran tiger from the 600% upsurge in the poaching threat.

Cut the coupon below and return it to FFI, together with your gift, to help save the Critically Endangered Sumatran tiger. Alternatively, go to www.FFIsumatrantiger.org. Thank you.

I want to help save the remaining 350 Sumatran tigers today, with a donation of £

Title Forename

Surname

Address

Postcode

Keep me updated by email:

Phone No

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to **Fauna & Flora International** OR

☐ I wish to pay by credit/debit card

Type of card: Visa/Amex/Mastercard/Maestro/CAF

Card No: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Issue Number (Maestro only): _____

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We store your details securely and will never sell, trade or rent your personal information to other organisations. If you'd prefer not to be mailed ☐ or telephoned ☐, please tick the appropriate box or contact us at any time.

Please return to: Sumatran Tiger Appeal, FREEPOST FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL, The David Attenborough Building, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ

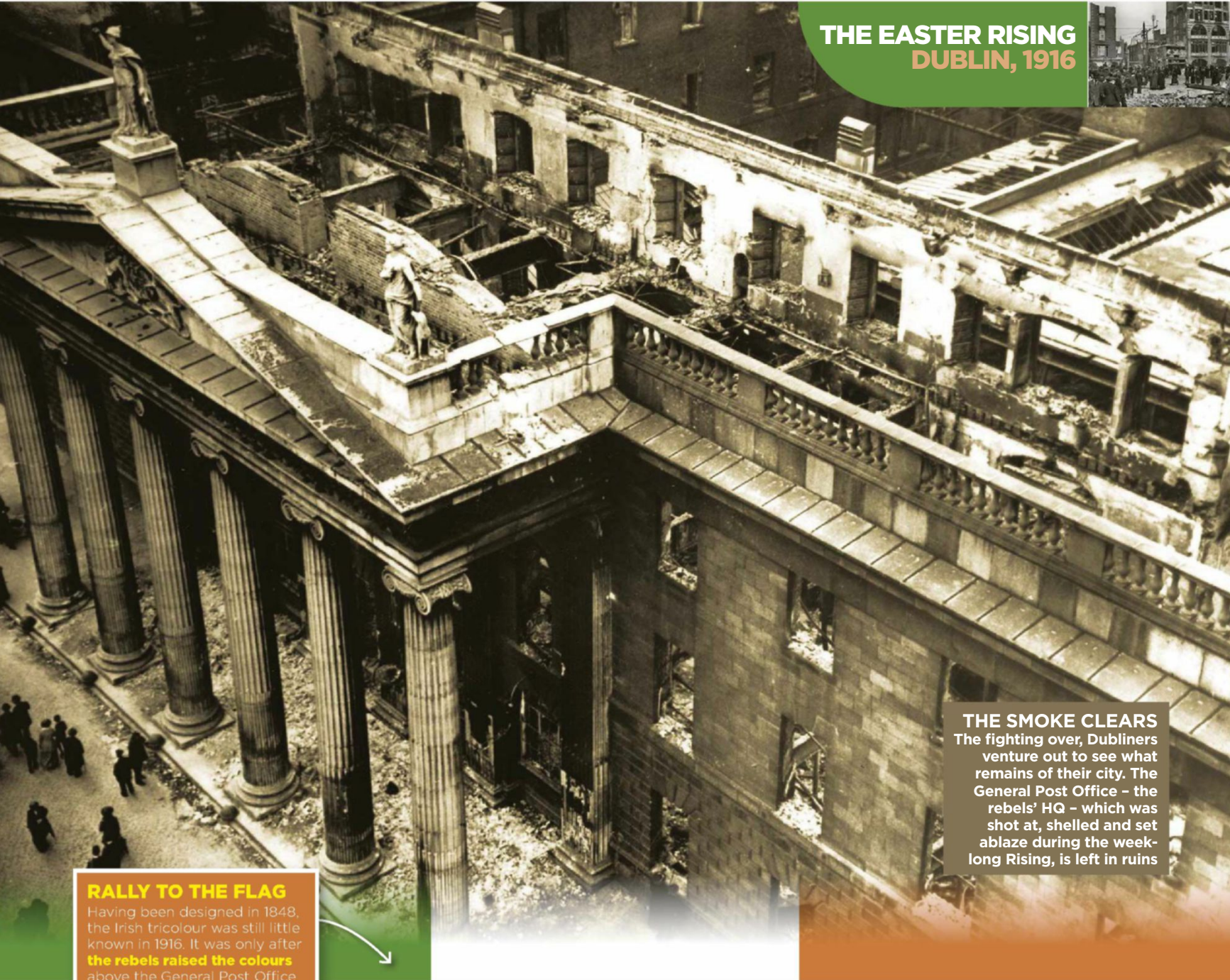
You can call 01223 749019 to donate now.

Or go to: www.FFIsumatrantiger.org to donate online.

Registered Charity No. 1011102. Registered Company No. 2677068. PR-ST16HR

Please note: If Fauna & Flora International succeeds in raising more than £83,131 from this appeal, funds will be used wherever they are most needed.





RALLY TO THE FLAG

Having been designed in 1848, the Irish tricolour was still little known in 1916. It was only after **the rebels raised the colours** above the General Post Office that it came to be regarded as the country's **national flag**.

THE SMOKE CLEARS

The fighting over, Dubliners venture out to see what remains of their city. The General Post Office – the rebels' HQ – which was shot at, shelled and set ablaze during the week-long Rising, is left in ruins

THE EASTER RISING DUBLIN 1916

In the midst of WWI, an attempted revolution in Ireland plunged Dublin into violent chaos, and dramatically shaped Ireland's journey through the 20th century. **Pat Kinsella** travels back 100 years to tell the tale...

THE EASTER RISING DUBLIN, 1916

The morning of 24 April 1916 saw an insurgency erupt in Dublin that would leave the city battered and bruised, with blood on its streets. The Irish were initially surprised by what became known as the Easter

Rising – a nationalist rebellion undertaken in their name – and then they were furious.

Within days, however, as vengeful British authorities began executing the leaders, anger at the rebels' actions turned to sympathy for their cause, and the uprising ultimately proved to be a pivotal point in the centuries-long struggle for Irish independence.

The rebellion, orchestrated by the Military Council of a secret organisation called the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), was led by a mixed-bag of colourful characters, ranging from prison-hardened nationalists and revolutionary socialists, through to poets, teachers and Irish-language enthusiasts.

On Easter Sunday 1916, seven such men scribbled their names on a document now known as the *Proclamation of the Irish Republic*. They knew they were signing their own death warrants if the uprising they were about to initiate failed – which, due to the events of preceding days, it surely would.

Reflecting the diverse philosophies at play, the Proclamation was more than a defiant expression of national self-determination – it was a statement of hope and a promise that the new government of an independent Ireland would guarantee “Religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens”, and deliver universal suffrage (something Britain didn’t enjoy until 1928).

The following day, Pádraig Pearse, a 36-year-old schoolteacher, read the Proclamation outside Dublin’s grand General Post Office



WILDE CONNECTION

Sir Edward Carson, **leader of the Unionists** and the UVF, was also the lawyer who exposed playwright **Oscar Wilde's sexuality** in court in 1895. This led to the arrest, trial and imprisonment of the writer for **gross indecency**.



DIVIDED OPINION

ABOVE: A civilian studies the **Proclamation of the Irish Republic** on Easter Monday
RIGHT: An Anti-Home Rule demonstration in the northern city of Derry/Londonderry

(GPO), to a small bunch of bemused onlookers, as roughly 1,200 rebels took up arms and occupied strategically selected buildings around the city. Then the shooting started.

Within two weeks, the seven signatories were all dead, along with at least 478 other people – many of them civilians – and the direction of Irish history had suddenly swerved.

STRAINED UNION

Since 1801, Ireland had been bolted to Britain by an Act of Union, passed after a bungled uprising by the United Irishmen in 1798. During this rebellion, aid and arms were supposed to be supplied by the First Republic of France to assist

a pan-Irish force of Catholics and Protestants to boot the British out of the country. Instead, thanks to bad weather and informers, the rebellion failed, death sentences were dishied out and the Irish Parliament was dissolved.

Throughout the 19th century, numerous attempts to secure Irish independence were made, including through armed insurrection – notably in 1803 and 1848. Organisations such as the IRB and, in America, the Fenian Brotherhood (later Clan na Gael) were formed, aimed at establishing an independent Irish republic. Other groups, like the Gaelic League, sprang up to try and preserve the Irish language and cultural traditions.



READY FOR ACTION

Members of James Connolly's Irish Citizen Army stand to attention outside its HQ, Liberty Hall, shortly before the Rising



REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN FEMALE FIGHTERS

Cumann na mBan ('League of Women') acted alongside the all-male Irish Volunteers, and played an important part in events during the uprising.

Typically – but not exclusively, especially in the case of Countess Constance Markievicz, who shot and wounded a British sniper – they operated in non-combat roles, providing first aid, transferring arms and messages, gathering intelligence and supplying food. They helped evacuate the Four Courts and, when Pearse decided to surrender, it was midwife and Cumann na mBan member Elizabeth O'Farrell who was tasked with the dangerous job of delivering the message to the British. She then conveyed it to posts around the city, where Volunteers were still holding out.

Over 70 women were arrested after the uprising, and Markievicz was sentenced to death, commuted on "account of the prisoner's sex". She later joined Sinn Féin and became the first woman ever elected to Westminster, although she never took her seat because of the party's abstentionist policy.



REBEL NOBLE
Anglo-Irish countess and fearsome insurgent, Constance Markievicz

**“All is changed, changed utterly:
a terrible beauty is born.”**

From Easter, 1916, by WB Yeats

The peaceful push for Home Rule – championed by Charles Stewart Parnell and then John Redmond of the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) – came closest to success. Twice the subject was debated at Westminster, with the support of Prime Minister William Gladstone but, even after being approved by the House of Commons in 1893, it was wrecked on the rocks of a Tory-dominated House of Lords. In 1912, Irish Home Rule was again approved by the Commons and rejected by the Lords. This time, however, the upper house could only delay the bill by two years, not veto it completely.

Ireland was not united in the quest for independence, though. In the predominantly Protestant north, Unionists – who feared the bill would give the Catholic south an unfair weight of power – referred to Home Rule as ‘Rome Rule’.

In 1913, the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), led by Sir Edward Carson, was formed and threatened to resist any form of Irish independence with force.

ON THE MOVE
Irish Volunteers and Na Fianna Éireann members transport guns imported to Howth north-east Dublin, July 1914



Inspired by the UVF, nationalists in Dublin and the south set up their own armed militia, the Irish Volunteers, to safeguard the implementation of Home Rule. This group numbered 180,000 men by mid-1914, and it was quickly infiltrated by the IRB, who placed members into key positions and inducted leading Volunteers – such as Pearse – into their own organisation.

Meanwhile, a socialist leader from Edinburgh, James Connolly, along with former British soldier Jack White, had established the Irish Citizen Army to protect workers during a violently bitter five-month industrial dispute known as the Dublin Lockout in 1913-14.

THE GREAT WAR

The outbreak of World War I changed everything. Home Rule was left dangling, a half-promise shelved until the bigger conflict was resolved. Labouring under the commonly held illusion that it would be a short war, Redmond encouraged Irishmen to support the British and join them on the battlefields (where he thought they could be trained up in preparation for the formation of an independent Irish army).

This caused a rupture in the ranks of the Irish Volunteers. A small group of more radical members saw the war in the light of the long-held republican adage: ‘England’s difficulty is Ireland’s opportunity’. The movement split, with the majority forming the National Volunteers,

who followed Redmond’s advice, joined Irish regiments and fought alongside the British.

As it became clear the war in Europe would not end quickly, and news of the butchery unfolding on Flanders Fields and at Gallipoli reached home, the popularity of Redmond and the IPP took a nosedive. Throughout 1915, the IRB leadership – notably the veteran Tom Clarke and Seán Mac Diarmada – began plotting rebellion. With Pearse, Éamonn Ceannt and Joseph Plunkett, they formed a Military Committee and began training those Irish Volunteers who had refused to join the British war effort in street-fighting techniques.

Connolly, who increasingly tied his hopes for a proletarian revolution to the nationalist cause, also began agitating for action, threatening to go it alone with his Citizen Army. To co-ordinate efforts, he was inducted onto the Military Committee in January 1916, when activist Thomas

MacDonagh was also added. Without informing Irish Volunteers leader Eoin MacNeill, who opposed a wartime rising, a date for the rebellion was set: Easter 1916.

Behind the scenes, the co-founder of the Irish Volunteers, Sir Roger Casement (see *The Gun-Running Knight*, overleaf), was working with Clan na Gael to source arms and ammunition from Germany, for a planned countrywide uprising in Ireland. From a German perspective, this would divert British attention from the Western Front, but the munitions were intercepted on 21 April.

49,000

The approximate number of Irishmen killed in World War I

THE EASTER RISING DUBLIN, 1916

Despite this fiasco, which was a severe blow to the rebels' plans and meant the uprising stood little chance of achieving its bigger aims, the Military Committee decided to press on. MacNeill's attention was diverted by a false story, and Pearse issued a coded call to arms in a newspaper, instructing Volunteers to report for manoeuvres on Easter Sunday. On 20 April, MacNeill learned of the plan, and issued two sets of countermanding orders. The ensuing confusion delayed the uprising for a day and resulted in less-than-expected numbers turning up.

British intelligence was also in disarray. Although they'd caught wind of a planned rebellion and had intercepted the incoming arms, they delayed taking action until after Easter, by which time the Rising was well underway. When fighting began, a meagre force of round 400 soldiers faced at least three times as many rebels – although these odds were rapidly reversed.

REBEL ALLIANCE

At 11am on Easter Monday, around 1,000 Volunteers and several hundred members of the Citizen Army assembled and began occupying key buildings in Dublin. Commander-in-Chief Pearse read the Proclamation outside the GPO, and the building became the de facto



BROTHERS IN ARMS

ABOVE: Soldiers of the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army inside the GPO
MAIN: British troops man a hastily-built barricade across Talbot Street



seat of the provisional government, with Pearse, Clarke, James Connolly, Mac Diarmada and Plunkett all based there.

Citizen Army Captain Seán Connolly led an assault on Dublin Castle, seat of government for the British, and the Magazine Fort in the Phoenix Park was also attacked. It wasn't long before blood was spilled. Early casualties included a police sentry at Dublin Castle, civilians killed by insurgents for resisting the uprising and a nurse, shot dead by a British soldier while attending the wounded.

Limited activity also took place in Galway, Cork, Wexford, Louth and Tipperary. But Ashbourne in County Meath, where Volunteers led by schoolteacher Thomas Ashe attacked and overcame the Royal Irish Constabulary barracks, was the only place outside of Dublin to see significant fighting.

More Volunteers joined the Dublin battle, but the British rushed in reinforcements and soon had as many as 20,000 soldiers in the city, outnumbering insurgents by ten to one. Rebel leaders had chosen their positions



SIR ROGER CASEMENT THE GUN-RUNNING KNIGHT

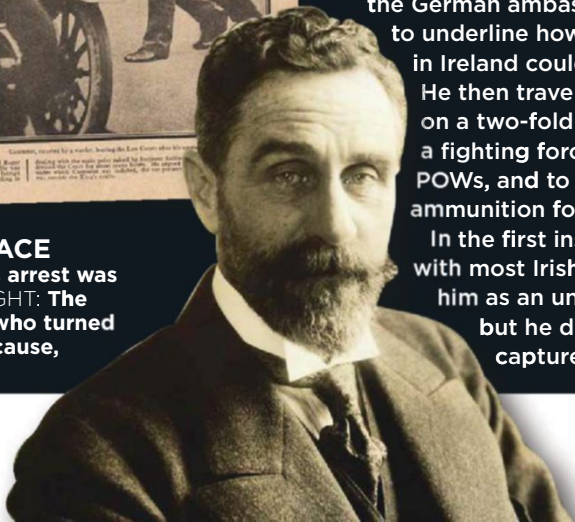
Despite being the son of a British army officer and having spent two decades in the British consular service (which saw him knighted for exposing human-rights abuses in the Congo and Peru), Dublin-born Roger Casement had strong sympathies with militant Irish nationalism. When WWI erupted, he met the German ambassador in New York, to underline how useful an uprising in Ireland could be for Germany. He then travelled to Germany on a two-fold mission: to form a fighting force from Irish POWs, and to secure arms and ammunition for a rising in Ireland. In the first instance he failed, with most Irish POWs regarding him as an untrustworthy traitor, but he did procure 20,000 captured Russian rifles,

ten machine guns and 1 million rounds of ammunition for the Irish Volunteers. This fell well short of expectations, and the haul was intercepted by the British anyway. Casement, who travelled ahead of the arms shipment on a U-Boat, intended to tell the leaders of the Easter Rising to abort their plan because of the small number of weapons he'd secured, but he was captured in Kerry. He was tried for treason and found guilty.

During his unsuccessful appeal, the British secretly circulated content from his journals that portrayed him as homosexual. Support for his case dropped as a result of these so-called 'Black Diaries' and – despite pleas for clemency from friends including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, WB Yeats and George Bernard Shaw – he was hanged at Pentonville Prison on 3 August 1916.

FALL FROM GRACE

ABOVE: Casement's arrest was front-page news RIGHT: The human-rights hero who turned traitor for the Irish cause, Sir Roger Casement



BLOODY BOULEVARD

This was not the only time Talbot Street saw action in the bid for Irish independence. In 1920, IRA leader **Seán Treacy** was fatally shot there by British agents and, in 1974, a car bomb planted by the UVF exploded on the road, **taking the lives of 14 civilians**.

UNDER ESCORT

Guarded by the British, Éamon de Valera (marked with a cross) leads his Irish Volunteers unit down a Dublin street after the surrender

carefully, however, and defended them with skill and determination, while the initial British response was riddled with strategic errors and ill discipline. At Mount Street Bridge alone, 234 soldiers were killed or injured, but they quickly changed tactics.

A cordon was established around the major Irish positions, and they concentrated on crushing the leadership of the rebellion in the GPO. Dublin's O'Connell Street (then called Sackville Street) was one of Europe's great boulevards and the leaders of the uprising possibly thought the British wouldn't destroy it. If so, they were wrong. From its position on the River Liffey, the Royal Navy gunboat *Helga* bombarded the centre of the city with 12-pounder naval guns for days, reducing the majority of the main street to rubble.

WAVE THE WHITE FLAG

By 8pm on Friday 28 April, the GPO was ablaze and the insurgents were forced to evacuate, managing to escape through a side entrance to Henry Street and reach shelter in a building

FROM THE ASHES OF THE RISING THE AFTERMATH

The immediate response to the uprising from the local press and population was one of fury. Many families had husbands, sons and fathers fighting on the frontline in Europe and felt betrayed. What's more, because of the close-quarter nature of the combat, civilian casualties had been high, and Dubliners had witnessed their city being blown to bits.

The Irish Times strongly supported General Maxwell's right to inflict the ultimate punishment on the "arch conspirators", whom it blamed for leading "young and utterly deluded men" in a "desperate plot". However, others had admiration for the courage and strategic nous displayed by the heavily outnumbered insurgents, and this was subsequently boosted by the British, whose handling of the rebels after their surrender added another batch of heroes to the already crowded pantheon of Irish martyrs.

Martial law was declared during the uprising, and the involvement of Germany (which was referenced in the Proclamation) meant that 183 leaders were court-martialled, with 90 sentenced to be shot. General Maxwell confirmed this judgement on 15 men, who were executed by firing squad over nine days, starting with Pearse, Clarke and MacDonagh on 3 May.

Providing golden fodder for ballad writers, Plunkett married his fiancé, Grace

on Moore Lane. The following morning, apparently after witnessing civilians being shot despite waving a white flag, Pearse decided to surrender. Connolly agreed to order his Citizen Army to stand down.


At 12.45pm, nurse and Cumann na mBan member Elizabeth O'Farrell carried a white flag to a British barricade. General Lowe demanded Pearse agree to unconditional surrender and present himself at the Moore Street barricade, which he did. At 3.45pm, Pearse signed a

Gifford, by candlelight at Kilmainham Gaol, eight hours before his execution, and the severely injured James Connolly was shot while tied to a chair.

It's often argued that the rebel leaders – particularly Pearse – deliberately offered themselves as a 'blood sacrifice' to the cause of Irish independence by planning an insurrection that couldn't succeed, with Easter chosen accordingly. Others, however, such as Clarke and Mac Diarmada, almost certainly envisaged a different outcome, with arms arriving from Germany and all of Ireland rising up.

Ultimately, the ham-fisted executions and arrest of 3,430 men and 79 women – combined with the suggestion that conscription could be introduced in Ireland to help the WWI effort – led to the demise of the IPP. Sinn Féin, a relatively new republican party, saw a massive spike in support, as surviving insurgents joined en masse once released from jail.

Those survivors included future Taoiseach and President of Ireland, Éamon de Valera, who had commanded forces in Boland's Mills and was the most senior insurgent to escape the firing squad, and Michael Collins. Both men would play leading roles in the Irish War of Independence, which erupted in 1919, amid conditions envisaged – and partly created – by the leaders of the Easter Rising three years earlier.

general order of surrender in front of General Maxwell, the Commanding Officer of the British forces. 

GET HOOKED

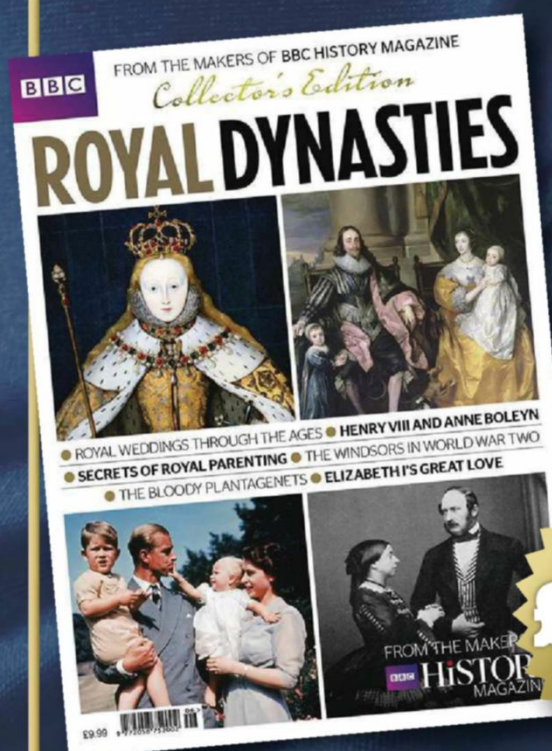
VISIT

Head to the **Easter Rising 1916: Sean Sexton Collection** exhibition at The Photographers' Gallery in London until 3 April 2016, or catch the National Photographic Archive's major exhibition, **Rising**, at the National Library of Ireland, Dublin, which runs until October 2016.

FROM THE MAKERS OF **BBC** **HiSTORY**
MAGAZINE

Collector's Edition

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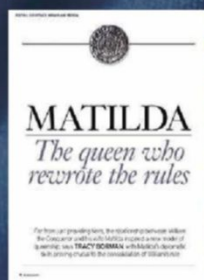


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THE CALL OF THE SEA

Between the eighth and 11th centuries, thousands of Scandinavians quit their homelands in search of adventure

THE BIG STORY
THE VIKINGS

THE VIKINGS

HISTORY'S GREATEST EXPLORERS

Though they might have a reputation as barbaric heathens, the Vikings were the European Dark Ages' most ambitious and advanced people. As masters of the sea, fearless explorers, ruthless raiders and successful traders, they tore up the map of the ancient world and drew themselves a new one – much of which remains familiar in modern atlases.

Erupting out of Scandinavia in the eighth century AD, the Vikings dominated northern Europe, but their influence stretched as far as Russia, Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. They discovered the major islands of the North Atlantic, and set up a colony in America five centuries before Columbus. Read on, as **Pat Kinsella** shines a new light on the Vikings...

NOW READ ON...

NEED TO KNOW

- 1 European Tour **p34**
- 2 Club Med **p36**
- 3 Eastern Promise **p38**
- 4 The Lands of Ice and Snow **p40**
- 5 New Found World **p41**

TIMELINE

Follow the Vikings around the world **p42**

ALAMY X2, GETTY X1, ISTOCK X3



1

EUROPEAN TOUR

From hit-and-run raiders to powerful kings, the Vikings flourished in northern Europe

The first appearance of the “Northmen from the land of robbers”, according to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, came in the form of three alien-looking longships lurking off the shores of Wessex in AD 787. When a reeve went to meet them, he was slain. These strangers did not come in peace.

Six years later they reappeared, and ruthlessly ransacked Northumbria’s Lindisfarne monastery in a shock-and-awe attack that horrified Christian England. The Viking Age had begun.

In the decades that followed, longships would appear suddenly to stage violent hit-and-run raids on vulnerable monasteries and settlements around the coast of Britain. As word spread, monks gathered their holy relics and fled into hiding. Many records were lost amid the destruction.

The Danes began overwintering in England by the mid-ninth century AD and, in 866, the ‘Great Heathen Army’ captured the city of York. Leading the onslaught against the four kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England – Mercia, Northumbria, East Anglia and Wessex – were Ívarr the Boneless and his brother Hálfðan Ragnarsson, who became the first King of Jórvið (Scandinavian York) and claimed the crown of Dublin.

Only Wessex, under King Æthelred and his brother, Alfred the Great, avoided complete

conquest. By the Battle of Edington in AD 878 – when Alfred was victorious and Viking King Guthrum converted to Christianity and withdrew from Wessex – the territory of ‘Danelaw’ extended from Yorkshire to East Anglia. Danish power declined, however, until, in AD 927, Alfred’s grandson Æthelstan reclaimed York and became the first king of all Anglo-Saxon England.

In 1013 – after the 1002 St Brice’s Day massacre, when King Æthelred the Unready ordered the mass slaying of Danish people in England –

Sweyn Forkbeard invaded and became the first King of Denmark and England. He was succeeded by his son, Cnut the Great, who added Norway to his realm in 1028.

The English crown eventually reverted to the House of Wessex, passing from Cnut’s son Harthacnut to his half-brother Edward the Confessor, then Harold Godwinson, the last Anglo-Saxon king. In 1066, the era ended violently, when Harold quashed an attack by Norwegian Viking Harald Hardrada, but suffered defeat and death during the invasion of the Normans (themselves direct descents of Vikings).

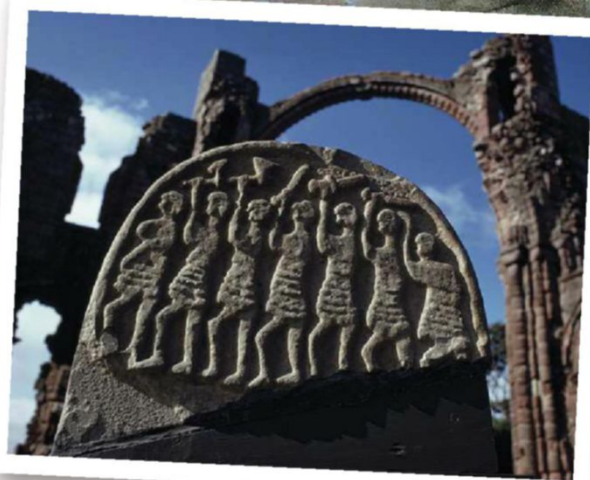
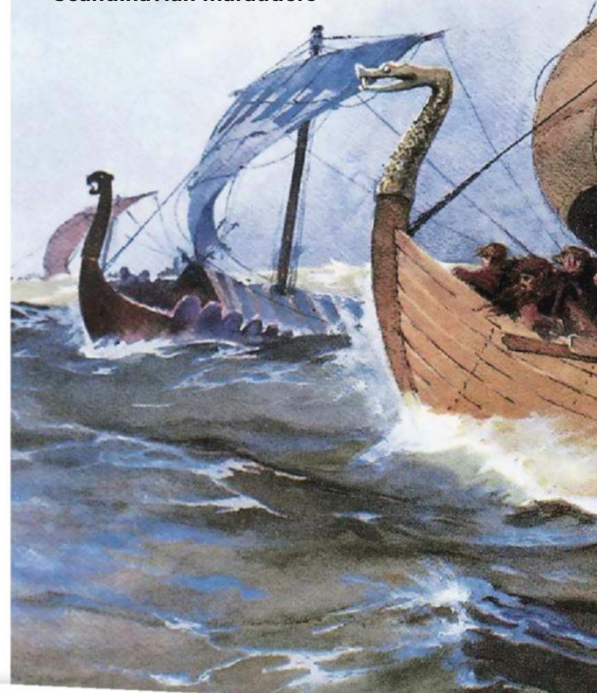
SCOTTISH SETTLERS

In the ninth century AD, Norwegian Vikings overran and settled the Isle of Man and Scottish islands such as the Orkneys and Shetlands. They killed powerful Pict leaders,

150

The number of minor kings Ireland had prior to the Viking invasion

FORCE MAJEURE
A fleet of Viking longships, ready for battle, sails towards modern-day Normandy – a land named after its Scandinavian marauders



MERCILESS RAID
A Viking attack on Lindisfarne Abbey is carved into this stone, on the holy island

BEHIND THE NAME

WHO WERE THE VIKINGS?

The people we call Vikings were Scandinavians from Norway, Denmark and Sweden, who dominated a period lasting from AD 793 to 1066. They led a lifestyle that varied between peaceful pastoralism at home and rampaging piracy when on the move. Never one cohesive entity, they’re historically bound together through common cultural denominators, including shared language and customs.

The Vikings’ impact on the globe was enormous and remains visible on modern maps – in place names and borders, including the distinction between Scotland and England – and

they left a linguistic legacy still audible across Europe. The origin of the word ‘Viking’ itself, however, is murky. Some claim it describes people who lurk in bays, *viks*, while others argue it began as a verb connected to the action of going to sea. Both theories suggest it was a synonym for pirate, and was probably not used to collectively describe the people and culture of Dark Ages’ Scandinavia until the ‘Viking revival’ that began in the 18th century, when the era was romanticised. Nevertheless, it has stuck, along with misconceptions such as the fallacy that they wore horned helmets.



HOLY TARGET

A raiding party of Viking re-enactors lands on the Northumbrian island of Lindisfarne



“THE HEATHEN MEN MADE LAMENTABLE HAVOC IN THE CHURCH OF GOD IN HOLY-ISLAND, BY RAPINE AND SLAUGHTER”

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle reports the AD 793 Viking raid on the monastery at Lindisfarne, Northumbria

such as Eóganan mac Óengusa, which led to the rise of canny King Cináed mac Ailpín (Kenneth MacAlpine). He may not have truly been the first king of the Scots, but the Vikings' arrival did gradually force an alliance between Picts and Gaels, leading to the formation of the Kingdom of Alba by AD 900, which became Scotland.

WELSH RESISTANCE

The Welsh kings were strong and largely survived the Viking onslaught. The Norse exploited an age-old enmity by forming an alliance with the Welsh in AD 878 to defeat the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia. In AD 893, however, the Welsh switched sides, aligning with Anglo-Saxons from Wessex to pursue a Viking force along the River Severn and defeat them at the Battle of Buttington.

While the Vikings weren't as dominant in Wales as they were elsewhere, and never fully controlled the region, they did found and name some cities and features, including Swansea (from the Norse *Sweyns Ey*, meaning 'Sweyn's island', after Sweyn Forkbeard).

ACROSS THE IRISH SEA

In AD 795, a church on Rathlin Island on the Antrim coast was raided and monasteries on Inismurray and Inishbofin were plundered. The Vikings had discovered Ireland.

After a period of opportunistic raiding, Ireland experienced two main Viking invasions – in the mid-ninth and early tenth centuries AD – which provoked both battles and alliances between the Norse newcomers and the local Celtic kings.

As was the case in England, conflict caused by the Vikings' arrival eventually (albeit

temporarily) unified the country under one king, Brian Boru, for the first time. Ireland was never fully conquered by the Vikings, however. The Scandinavians were assimilated into the population and became Hiberno-Norse.

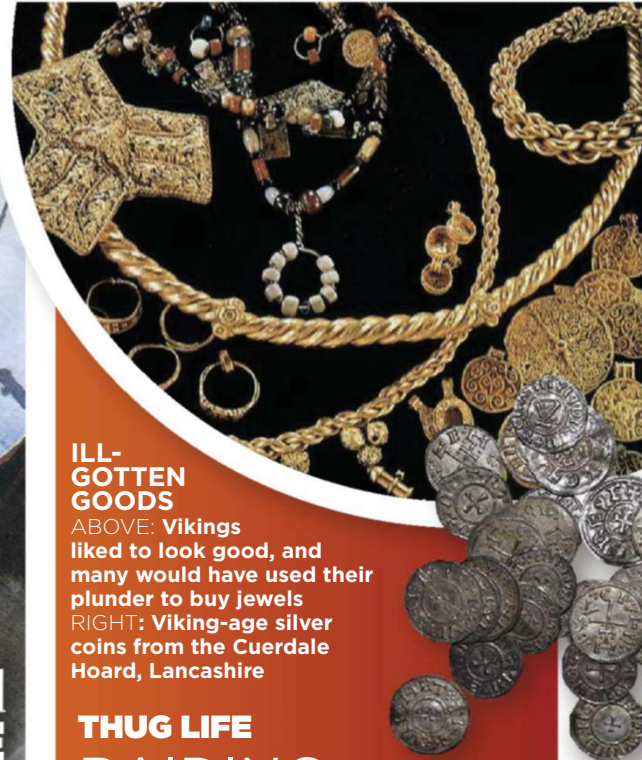
Norsemen first overwintered in what is now Dublin in AD 841–42, and 'Dyflin' soon became a hugely important Viking settlement, home to a large slave market. Although Norse-Irish alliances were commonplace during regional squabbles, co-ordinated resistance from the many kings of medieval Ireland was also strong, and the Vikings were defeated and vanquished from Dublin in AD 902. They were back by AD 914, however, when the second Viking invasion began.

The end of the era is marked by the epic Battle of Clontarf in 1014, between Brian Boru, High King of Ireland, and a Hiberno-Norse alliance. Boru won, but was killed in the conflict.

LAND OF THE NORSEMEN

As the name suggests, Normandy – 'Land of The Norsemen' – has strong Viking connections. After Viking leader Rollo attacked Paris and besieged Chartres, King Charles III negotiated the AD 911 Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, which granted the invader lands in the Normandy area. In AD 996, this would become the Duchy of Normandy.

Intermarriage and a fusion of cultures and languages between the Scandinavians, the Franks and the Gauls led to the birth of the people we know as the Normans. It was a direct descendant of Rollo, William Duke of Normandy, who conquered Anglo-Saxon King Harold's forces at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, ushering in a new era of Viking rule in England – albeit under a different name.



ILL-GOTTEN GOODS

ABOVE: Vikings liked to look good, and many would have used their plunder to buy jewels
RIGHT: Viking-age silver coins from the Cuerdale Hoard, Lancashire

THUG LIFE RAIDING AND TRADING

While Britain felt the fury of the Norsemen first, they soon began exploring, attacking, sacking and colonising coastal regions right across Europe and beyond. But what motivated them to leave home?

The factors driving the early Viking marauders were basic: the pursuit of adventure and easy-to-swipe swag. They had super sophisticated ships, which they used as ram-raiding machines to empty loot-loaded monasteries and hit other soft targets along the shores of Europe, seizing treasure they could keep or trade with.

As non-Christians brought up in a warrior culture, Norsemen had no qualms about violently relieving monks of their treasure, especially given the extent of the wealth many monasteries held. Even seemingly worthless holy books and relics could be flogged back to Christians. People, too, were commonly captured and sold as slaves.

As the era wore on and the easy pickings thinned, Vikings began staying ashore for longer periods and their motives and modus operandi evolved. Using knowledge gained during raids, they started to target fertile areas and establish settlements – especially those who hailed from Norway's western coast, where land quality was poor.

Competition for turf or titles could be intense at home, where families were often large. Sibling rivalry pushed many men away from Scandinavia in search of new domains. Conflict was common, and men were often exiled with their families as a result of violent blood feuds. Sometimes they fled to escape retribution, but often those guilty of murder or manslaughter were banished by judgements handed down by the Thing – a law-making assembly. Iceland and Greenland were both settled by exiles.



CLUB MED

As the Scandinavian explorers pushed south, they found war – and wealth

Muslim caliphates had the mouth of the Mediterranean well defended in the early ninth century AD, so it was risky for Vikings to try and raid by sea. There are reports of tenacious Vikings trafficking slaves overland but, eventually, the potential spoils of raiding expeditions into the south proved irresistible.

The Vikings' first attempt to push into the Mediterranean came in AD 844. A fleet of up to 100 ships left Aquitaine (France) to attack Gijon and Coruña (both north Spain). They met stiff resistance from the Christian Asturians, and continued around Iberia, staging a 13-day raid on Lisbon (in modern-day Portugal), attacking Cadiz (Spain) and pushing inland to capture Seville and menace Córdoba. The Muslim caliphate

under Abd al-Rahman II fought back hard. They ambushed the Vikings, hanging and beheading many of them. The Norsemen had to buy their way out and scuttle back to Aquitaine.

WARRIOR BROTHERS

A more successful Viking excursion to the area came 15 years later. It was led by Hastein and Björn Ironside, sons of the legendary Viking

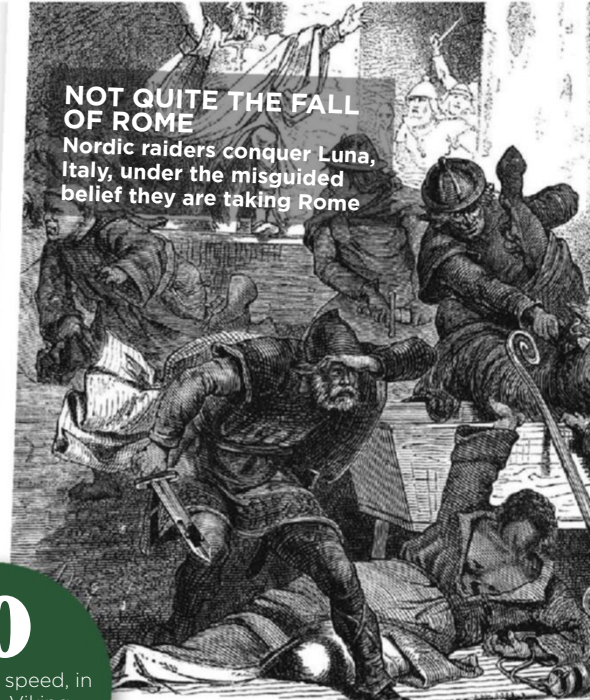
Ragnar (some sources suggest Hastein was adopted). In AD 859, they left France's Loire to sail around the Iberian Peninsula with an expedition of 62 ships. Again, they struggled against the Asturians and, in Spain, were defeated by the Muslim army of the Umayyad Caliphate of Córdoba.

Instead of fleeing back north, the Vikings slipped through the straits, past the Pillars of Hercules and into the Mediterranean, taking Algeciras (south Spain) by surprise, sacking the town and torching the mosque. More raids followed on the shores of North Africa, where they plundered Nekor (in modern Morocco), and attacked settlements at Orihuela (south-east Spain) and the Balearic Islands.

After spending winter in Camargue on the mouth of the River Rhone, Hastein and Björn renewed their offensive in the Rhone Valley. They sacked Narbonne, Nîmes and Arles, pushing as far north up the river as Valence, before turning their attentions to Italy. At least part of the Viking fleet travelled along the Tuscan coast, went up the River Arno and attacked Pisa and Fiesole.

The Italian city of Luna suffered the most infamous assault of the campaign. Thinking

NOT QUITE THE FALL OF ROME
Nordic raiders conquer Luna, Italy, under the misguided belief they are taking Rome



10

The average speed, in knots, of a Viking longship – that's about 11.5 mph

they'd reached Rome, Hastein allegedly pretended to be mortally injured and pleaded to be given access to the city so he could convert to Christianity and receive the sacraments before dying. The bishop consented and, once inside, Hastein feigned death. A group of mourners was then also given access, whereupon Hastein came back to life and led a murderous attack on Luna from within. It was only while withdrawing that they realised they hadn't actually toppled Rome.

RETURN MISSION

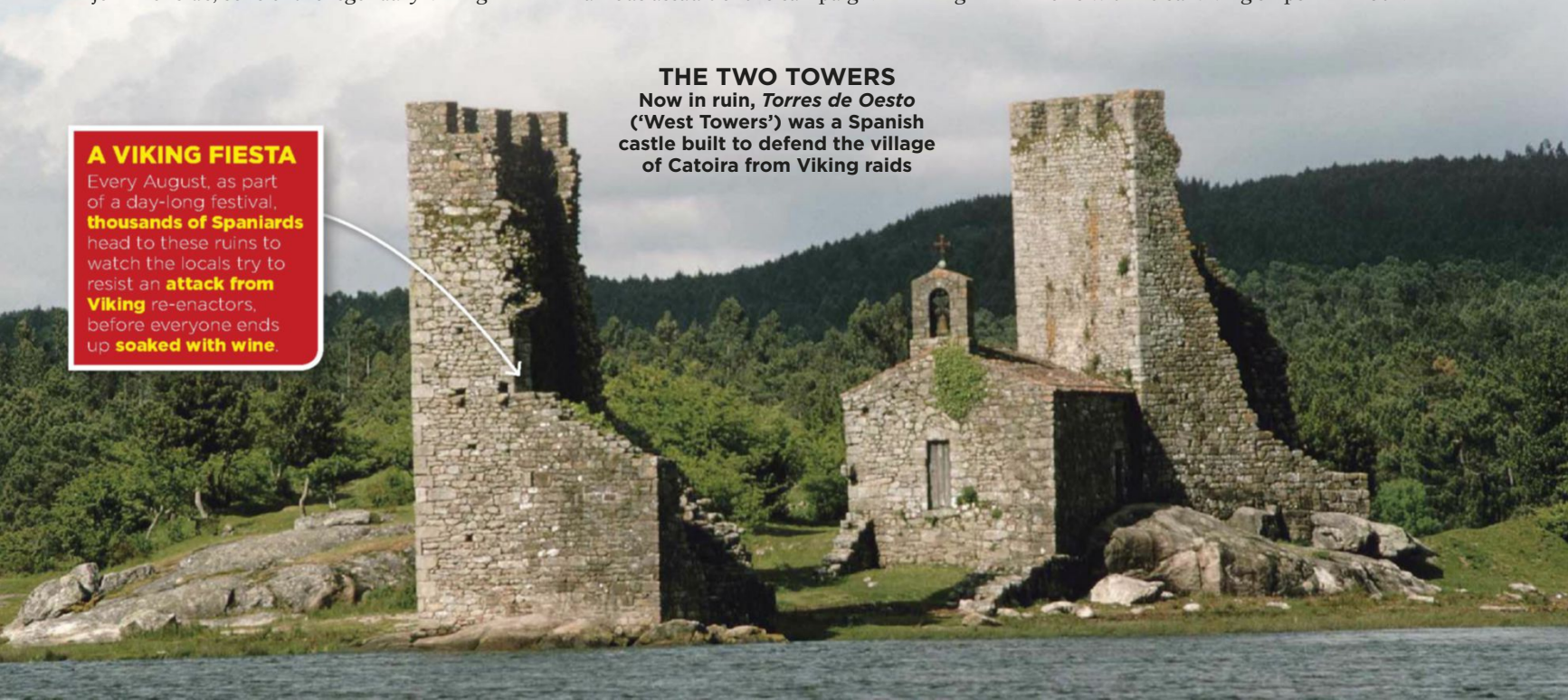
According to some reports, the Vikings carried on, even reaching and raiding Byzantine Empire settlements in the eastern Mediterranean. When they did finally turn around to go home, stopping briefly to pick up some slaves (possibly West Africans or Tuaregs, known to the Vikings as *blámenn* – 'blue men'), they once again battled a strong Muslim force at the mouth of the Mediterranean. The last action of the campaign saw Pamplona (north Spain) take a pasting, before Hastein and Björn arrived back at the Loire with 20 surviving ships in AD 862.

**“THE
POTENTIAL
SPOILS
PROVED
IRRESISTIBLE”**

THE TWO TOWERS
Now in ruin, *Torres de Oeste* ('West Towers') was a Spanish castle built to defend the village of Catoira from Viking raids

A VIKING FIESTA

Every August, as part of a day-long festival, thousands of Spaniards head to these ruins to watch the locals try to resist an attack from Viking re-enactors, before everyone ends up soaked with wine.



SAIL

Woven from wool, the Vikings' square sail is both the most basic and the oldest-known type of rigging.

MAST

Some longships had collapsible masts, which were taken down during battles. The boats could also be tied together, creating a floating island on which to fight.

KEEL

Crafted from planks of oak, the main structure of a longship was waterproofed with animal hair and pine-tree tar.

STEERING OAR

On the largest longships, as many as 100 oarsmen were required to row but, no matter the size of the vessel, just one man controlled a longship's direction, using the large steering oar.

BURIED AT SEA

Important Vikings were cremated in their boats, along with their possessions, in a ritual thought to help them reach the afterlife for warriors - Valhalla.

RULERS OF THE WAVES LIFE ON THE OPEN OCEAN

Viking vessels varied according to their primary function - from little fishing boats to ferries and wide cargo boats - but the Norse are primarily known for their longboats, the most advanced sea-going machines seen in the entire medieval period. Fast-moving and highly manoeuvrable, yet capable of transporting large groups of warriors on long voyages, these battleships were powered by oars and the wind, with a single big, square, woollen sail. Made from overlapping planks of timber - typically oak, with the gaps in between stuffed with tar or tallow mixed with animal hair, wool and moss - boats had keels and a steering oar at the stern, so they could be manoeuvred by one person. A shallow draft meant they could be taken close to shore, to quickly deliver a raiding party and cause maximum devastation.



**“THE NORDIC
NEWCOMERS
LEFT A LEGACY
SEEN IN THE
VERY NAMES
OF RUSSIA
AND BELARUS”**

3

EASTERN PROMISE

It was the Vikings who headed east that had, perhaps, the biggest impact of all

While the Danes and Norwegians were busy raiding and invading the British Isles and northern Europe, the Swedish Vikings went east, sailing across the Baltic Sea to explore and exploit land divided on the modern map into Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Estonia and Poland.

To the Slavic peoples, these Nordic newcomers were known as the Varangians or the Rus', and they dominated events in the region from the ninth to the 11th centuries, leaving a legacy seen in the very names of Russia and Belarus.

They travelled deep into the continent along the Volga and Dnieper Rivers, seizing control of ancient trade routes and establishing the major city of Kiev. They even sold their lethal skills to the Eastern Roman Empire, for whom they

worked as the mercenary Byzantine Varangian Guard (see *Basil's Varangian Guard*, right).

Primary sources are scant, and debate rages around the origins of this period's main protagonists, but it's commonly accepted that the Rus' first arrived in the region in the mid-ninth century AD. They began extracting

money from the local population of Slavic tribes living around the settlement of Novgorod, which the Norse called Holmgård.

In AD 862, these tribes drove the invaders back into the sea. But chaos and fighting ensued between rival groups and the Rus' were allegedly invited back to restore order, which they did under the leadership of a man named Rurik. The dynasty that Rurik established lasted seven centuries, right up until the Tsardom of Russia.

It was around the time of Rurik's reign that the Rus' mounted the first of several attacks

on the Byzantine capital, Constantinople (now Istanbul). Rurik's successor, Oleg, moved his capital to Kiev and created the Kievan Rus' state. At its height, the state controlled trade along the Dvina, Dnieper and Volga Rivers, which respectively flow into the Baltic, Black and Caspian Seas, thus forming a trade network that connected Medieval Central Europe and the Byzantine Empire with wealthy Arab caliphates stretching as far as Baghdad. It made the Rus' rich and their territory swelled rapidly.

Several times the Rus' waged war against Constantinople, primarily to secure better trading terms, in conflicts that sometimes involved up to 10,000 vessels and saw the Rus' calling in reinforcements from Varangians "beyond the sea" – meaning Scandinavia.

SAINT VLAD

By AD 980, Vladimir the Great (a descendant of Rurik and Oleg) had consolidated the region from modern Ukraine to the Baltic Sea, after enlisting the help of his relative Jarl Hákon Sigurdsson, ruler of Norway, to retake Novgorod and Kiev from his brother. Vladimir converted the empire to Christianity during his rule, which lasted until 1015.

Meanwhile, all ranks of the Rus' had been busy intermarrying with the various Slavic peoples and, by the end of 12th century, a new ethnic group had emerged: the Russians.

800

The number of concubines Vladimir the Great had before he became a Christian

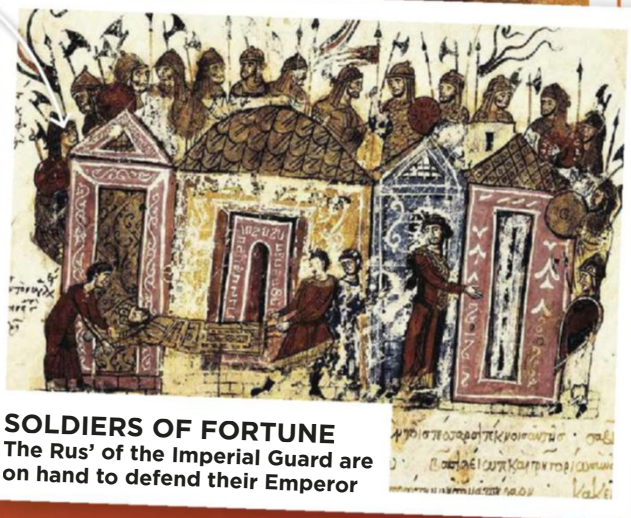
RARING FOR A FIGHT

MAIN: The fearsome Rus' approach Constantinople in a longship RIGHT: Norse leader Rurik sends men to harass the Byzantine capital



THE THINGMEN

From 1013-51, the **kings of England** had their own version of the Varangian Guard called The Thingmen, made up of **3,000 Scandinavian warriors** and a fleet of 40 ships.



SOLDIERS OF FORTUNE
The Rus' of the Imperial Guard are on hand to defend their Emperor

VIKING MERCENARIES BASIL'S VARANGIAN GUARD

The Byzantine Emperor Basil II was amazed by the ferocity and bravery of the Norsemen in battle, and by the to-the-death loyalty they displayed to their leaders. He was so impressed, in fact, that he began employing Varangian warriors as his personal bodyguards in AD 988 – the same year that Vladimir the Great led the Christianisation of the Rus'.

This army would become known as the Varangian Guard, a much-feared mercenary unit that lasted for centuries. Barracked in Constantinople, their primary role was the protection of the emperor, but they also played a decisive part in many military campaigns, usually being released to attack the enemy at critical points during battle. They became infamous for their lethal fury, total disregard for danger and utter mercilessness.

The Imperial Guard fought on foot, typically using a long hacking axe as their main weapon, though many were also skilled swordsmen.

They were originally an all-Norse force – led by Byzantine Commanders – but, after 1066, a number of displaced Anglo-Saxon warriors also featured. Over several centuries, though, thousands of Scandinavians sought adventure and wealth by joining their ranks.

A famous Varangian Guardsman was Harald Hardrada. He saw 18 battles in the service of the Byzantines, in places including Palestine, before returning home to become King of Norway. He was killed at the Battle of Stamford Bridge during a failed invasion of England in 1066, just before the Normans arrived.

Harald's grandson, Sigurd I, fought in the Norwegian Crusade to the Holy Land (1107-10), and afterwards allowed all but a few hundred of his 6,000-strong army join the Varangian Guard.

BUSINESSMEN TRADING PLACES

Despite their reputation as ferocious barbarians, many Vikings were simply opportunistic businessmen – admittedly with big axes – who were primarily looking to make money, take early retirement and set their kids up with an inheritance.

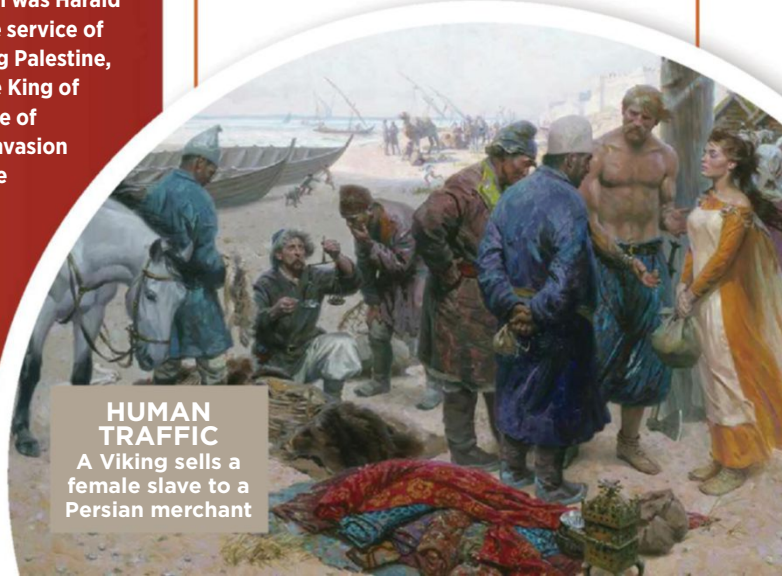
Merchants as much as warriors, the pursuit of wealth drove them onwards to new lands, where they invariably set about identifying, hijacking and controlling trade routes. The concept of a Viking empire is a nebulous notion, but they fully exploited their reach and commercial advantage as Norse customs and languages spread around the globe.

Each area explored brought new products to the marketplace. In Britain, the Vikings sought wheat, wool, honey and tin. Italy offered fine glass, while France and Germany had valuable wine and salt. In the East, spices were bought from Persian and Chinese merchants, who also had silk. Norsemen who settled in Greenland exported walrus ivory, and amber was found in America. The Kievan Rus' state grew wealthy on its ready supply of furs, beeswax, honey and slaves.

Human trafficking was commonplace across the ever-growing area of Viking influence. The Norse would seize captives wherever they went and Dublin became an important base for slave trading after being founded in AD 841.

Items were pinched or purchased and traded elsewhere, setting up an intriguing treasure hunt for modern historians, who can proof-test tales told in sagas by looking at how materials travelled across the world.

Vikings initially used a bullion economy, based on gold and silver, but eventually started minting coins, which also provide clues. Intriguingly, the 'Maine Penny' – a coin from the reign of Norway's King Olaf Kyrre (1067-93), discovered in an archaeological site in the US state of Maine – seems to reveal ongoing trade links between the new and the old worlds after the demise of Leif Eriksson's short-lived North American colony.



HUMAN TRAFFIC

A Viking sells a female slave to a Persian merchant

ORIGIN STORY

According to the *Íslendingabók* ('Book of Icelanders'), Ingólfr Arnarson decided to settle on Iceland after lobbing his high-seat pillars into the sea, **allowing the gods to decide** where they washed ashore. Three years later, the jettisoned poles were **found at Reykjavík**.

GOING WITH THE FLOE

A replica tenth-century Viking longship sails around Greenland

4

THE LANDS OF ICE AND SNOW

The colonies of Iceland and Greenland reveal the Norsemen's peaceful side

For a range of reasons – including violent feuds, civil unrest in Norway under King Harald I, a desire to find good land, and an inherent urge to explore – various Vikings island-hopped across the North Sea during the ninth century AD.

Norsemen were occupying the Faroe Islands by AD 800 and, by the second half of the century, they were braving colder climes closer to the Arctic Circle. The first Viking visitors to Iceland washed up on the island's shores by mistake. These include Naddodd, who got lost while sailing from Norway to the Faroe Islands, and chanced upon Iceland's east coast.

Naddodd called the country Snæland (Snowland), but it was rebranded by Swedish Viking Garðar Svavarsson, who also arrived in error, but stayed long enough to circumnavigate the island and name it after himself: Garðarshólmi. The current name, Ísland (Iceland), originated with Flóki Vilgerðarson, the first Viking to deliberately visit and spend a winter there.

Winters were dark and harsh, but at least Iceland didn't have an indignant indigenous population. Beyond a lonely slave left behind by Garðar, and possibly a super-reclusive cave-dwelling Irish monk, Iceland was uninhabited. That suited Ingólfr Arnarson, a Viking chief who arrived with his foster brother Hjörleifur in AD 874, fleeing a blood feud in Norway.

The brothers landed on Iceland's southwestern peninsula, in a place Arnarson called Reykjavík (meaning 'Bay of Smokes', reflecting the geothermal activity of the area).

Hjörleifur was murdered by his ill-treated slaves, but Arnarson didn't stay lonely for long; between 874 and 930 AD, as many as 20,000 settlers arrived in Iceland. A parliament (Alþingi) was formed and laws were established.

OUT IN THE COLD

After falling foul of these laws by killing several men during a dispute, a Viking named Erik the Red was banished from Iceland for three years in AD 982. Leaving with 25 ships, Erik

CLUES OF LIFE

ABOVE: A ruined church at Hvalsey, abandoned by Greenland's Vikings around the 15th century

LEFT: A Thule carving of a hooded Norseman found in Canada

discovered Greenland and spent his exile exploring the southern coast. He returned to Greenland in AD 986, taking with him a group of settlers.

They arrived in a warm period, but life proved tough. The land was hard, there were no trees and the climate

worsened, eventually resulting in a mini ice age. The Thule people, ancestors of the Inuit, whom the Norse called 'Skrælings', made life trickier still. They were expanding across the region and, in the latter stage of Viking occupation, one settlement suffered a Skraeling attack.

At one stage populated by about 5,000 people, Greenland's Nordic settlements lasted nearly five centuries before becoming isolated and losing contact with Iceland and Scandinavia. The Greenlanders disappeared into the mists of mythology. All records disappear after the 15th century, and a Dano-Norwegian expedition to Greenland in 1721 found no surviving Europeans.

However, long before its decline, Nordic Greenland produced probably the Viking's best-known explorer: Leif Eriksson, son of Erik the Red, who established a settlement in America 500 years before Columbus.

NEW FOUND WORLD

The Vikings were the first Europeans to set foot on American soil

Leif Eriksson is credited with establishing a colony in current-day Canada, but he wasn't the first European to eyeball the North American continent. That honour belongs to Norwegian Bjarni Herjólfsson who, so the *Grœnlendinga saga* says, sighted a coast well west of Greenland in AD 986, after getting woefully lost while attempting to find his father, who'd emigrated with Erik the Red.

Herjólfsson eventually located Greenland, where he recounted the experience and was much derided for failing to land and explore the new shores – especially by Erik, who loved an adventure. Around AD 1000, Erik's son Leif Eriksson purchased Herjólfsson's knarr (boat) and retraced his route with a crew of 35, following landmarks, currents and winds during an 1,800-mile journey to an utterly unknown new world. Erik himself would have led the expedition, but he fell from his horse and suffered an injury shortly before departure.

The sagas – including *Eiríks saga rauða* ('Erik the Red's saga'), *Hauksbók* and the *Flatey*

Book – provide accounts of three areas discovered during Leif's North American adventures: Helluland, meaning the 'land of the

flat stones' (now Baffin Island); Markland 'land of forests', (Labrador and Newfoundland); as well as Vinland, 'land of wine', (Newfoundland Island).

Leif camped in Leifsbúðir (near Cape Bauld, close to present-day L'Anse aux Meadows on the northern tip of Newfoundland) in 1001. He spent two winters there, discovering "wine-berries" (probably naturally fermenting squashberries, gooseberries or cranberries) in the process, before returning to Greenland.

LAND OF POTENTIAL

The new country had everything Greenland didn't, including trees (required for building boats and houses), good soil, less brutal weather and plenty of prey animals. However, it also had an indigenous population of Inuits and First Nation tribes – all referred to as 'Skrælings' by the Norse – who weren't thrilled with the sudden arrival of these flaxen-haired paleskins.

Leif's brother Thorvald Eriksson visited in 1004, bringing with him 30 men and overwintering at Leifsbúðir. Thorvald seemingly instigated conflict with the Skrælings by attacking a group while they slept beneath canoes. This provoked a violent response from the tribe, which led to Thorvald's murder. Another Viking, Thorfinn Karlsefni, made a concerted effort to properly settle the new world

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

The **Vinland map** – a 15th-century document detailing Viking exploration of North America presented by Yale University in 1965, is **believed to be a fake**.

SETTING UP FARM

Norse settlers arrive at Vinland, Newfoundland

in 1009, arriving with three ships, livestock and 160–250 people, including Leif's sister Freydis Eiríksdóttir. The group tried settling at Straumfjord and Straumsøy, and managed to establish trade with Skrælings.

TROUBLE IN THE COLONY

Conflict eventually erupted between the newcomers and the First Nation people, however, who are described as using a large-scale catapult in battle. One infamous incident described in *Eiríks saga rauða*, depicts a pregnant Freydis – standing her ground during an attack, while all the menfolk run – scaring the Skrælings away by baring her breast and striking it with a sword.

Ultimately, these attacks and the colony's remoteness doomed it to failure. Because contact was lost with Greenland, details are scant, but it's possible wood-gathering and trading trips to Markland continued for 350 years. The *Icelandic Annals* tells of an 18-man vessel, loaded with wood, that arrived in Iceland in 1347, while attempting to return to Greenland from Markland.

9–14

The approximate number of days it took to sail from Greenland to Vinland

LUCKY LEIF
A statue of Leif Eriksson, Erik the Red's son, who sailed to North America c1000 AD

“THE TRIBES WEREN'T THRILLED WITH THESE FLAXEN-HAIRED PALESKINS”

VIKINGS IN AMERICA
A reconstruction of an 11th-century European settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, Canada



TIMELINE The adventures

Chart the rise of these ambitious explorers, from their first-ever raids to their



AD 787

Viking longships are seen for the first time, lurking with intent off the Wessex coast. Six years later, they attack the holy island of Lindisfarne. Word of the Viking threat spreads throughout Europe.



AD 840-41

Vikings first overwinter in the modern-day location of Dublin, which they found and name Dyflin – the first and most important Viking settlement in the British Isles.

AD 844

A Viking raiding party sacks Lisbon and Seville before being defeated by a Muslim force at Córdoba. A year later, a group of Danes sacks Paris (pictured). The city is plundered again in the 860s and 880s.



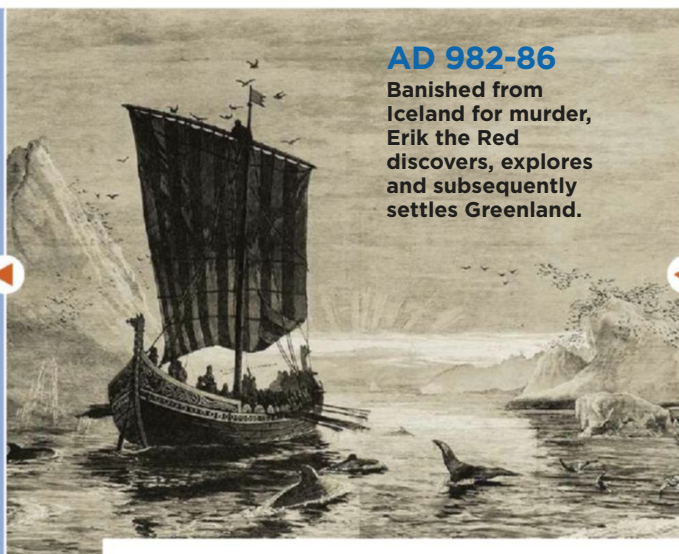
AD 859-62

Led by Hastein and Björn Ironside, a Viking fleet penetrates the Mediterranean Sea, attacking settlements in North Africa, southern Spain and Italy.



AD 985

Bjarni Herjólfsson becomes the first Viking (and European) to see North America, but doesn't bother making landfall.



AD 982-86

Banished from Iceland for murder, Erik the Red discovers, explores and subsequently settles Greenland.

AD 980

With the help of Jarl Håkon Sigurdsson of Norway, Vladimir the Great consolidates the territory of the Kievan Rus', which now stretches from the Ukraine to the Baltic Sea.

AD 927

Alfred the Great's grandson, Æthelstan, reclaims York and becomes the first king of all Anglo-Saxon England.



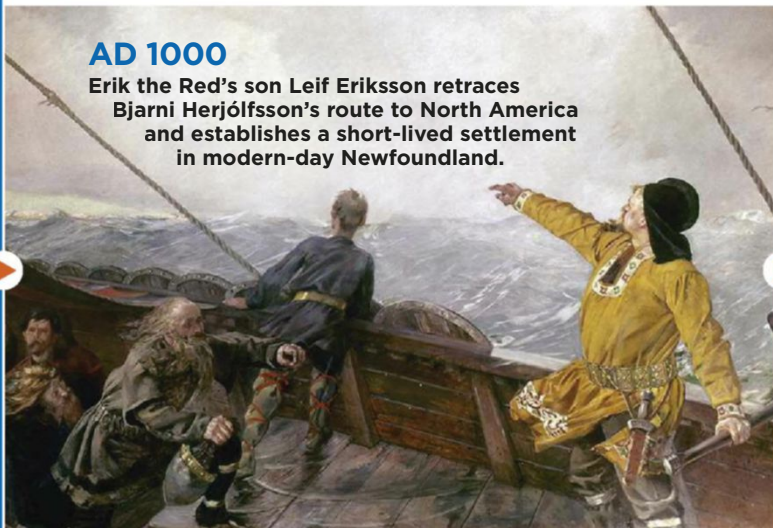
AD 988

The Byzantine Emperor Basil II begins employing Norse warriors as his personal bodyguards, bringing the Varangian Guard into existence.



AD 1000

Erik the Red's son Leif Eriksson retraces Bjarni Herjólfsson's route to North America and establishes a short-lived settlement in modern-day Newfoundland.



On King Æthelred's orders, hundreds of Vikings are slain on Saint Brice's Day

1002

Following a series of military successes against Viking leaders, Brian Boru becomes the first true High King of all Ireland. In England, King Æthelred the Unready gives orders for all Danish people to be slain on Saint Brice's Day.

of the Vikings

aggressive global expansion



c862 AD

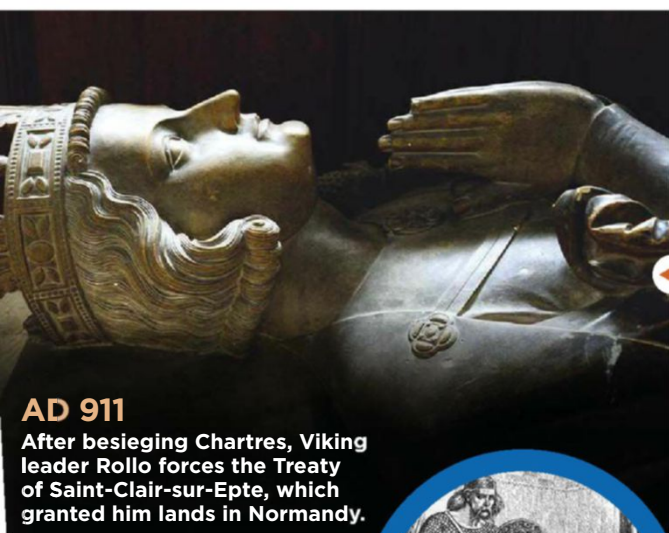
Slavic tribes invite the Norse Varangians, known as the Rus', into the area around Novgorod to impose order. Rurik and Oleg establish the Kievan Rus' state, which dominates trade between the Baltic, Black and Caspian seas.

AD 866

The 'Great Heathen Army' from Denmark captures York, founding the Viking city Jórviik with Hálfðan Ragnarsson as its King.

AD 874

Ingólfur Arnarson founds Reykjavík, becoming Iceland's first long-term settler, and the Icelandic Age of Settlement begins, lasting until AD 930.



AD 911

After besieging Chartres, Viking leader Rollo forces the Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, which granted him lands in Normandy.

c900 AD

The Kingdom of Alba (precursor of Scotland) is formed as a result of Viking activity, which forces an alliance between the Picts and Gaels.

AD 878

In the Battle of Edington, King of Wessex Alfred the Great defeats Viking King Guthrum, who then converts to Christianity and withdraws from the region.



King Guthrum is baptised



1013

Avenge the Saint Brice's Day massacre, Danish King Sweyn Forkbeard capitalises on an invasion of England. He seizes control of the country, becoming King of Denmark and England. In 1028, his son, Cnut the Great, adds Norway to the kingdom.

1014

Brian Boru's army beats a Viking-Irish alliance of Sigtrygg Silkbeard (Nordic King of Dublin) and Máel Mórda mac Murchada (Irish king of Leinster) at the Battle of Clontarf, but Boru is killed.



1066

English King Harold Godwinson repels an invasion by Norway's Harald Hardrada at Stamford Bridge, but this is instantly followed by the Battle of Hastings, when the Norman Conquest begins.

NAVIGATION HOW THEY GOT AROUND

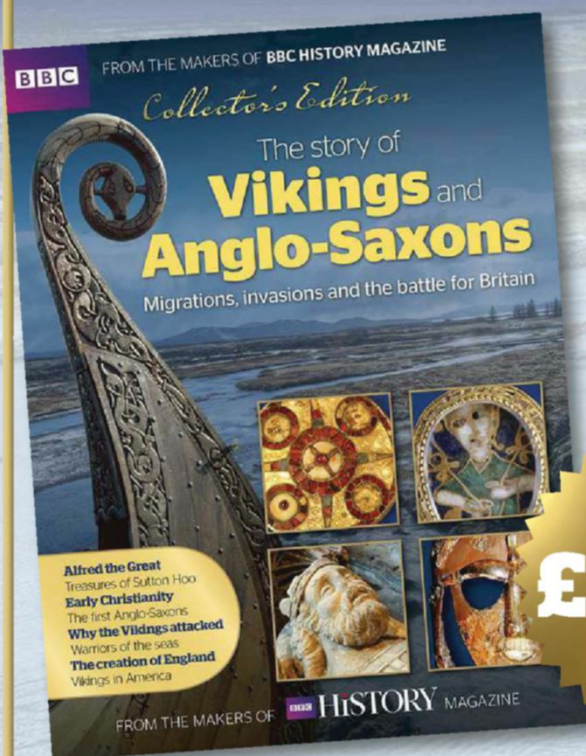
As far as we know, Vikings had very little in the way of navigational aides. They did not use or produce maps as they felt and fought their way around the globe, touching, trading and transforming at least four continents. They did use the Sun and stars to determine where they were, and to check they were moving in the right direction, and some captains possibly used a Sun-shadow board to help plot a course. But, mainly, they navigated using their senses, with tricks including watching the way waves were moving, observing the migration of whales and using sea birds as an indicator of nearby land. It has been claimed that some Vikings could smell land before they saw it.

Wind, too, was a very important factor – for example, for those going to Scotland, prevailing winds propelled them westwards in spring, and eastwards in the autumn to bring them home. The Viking era coincided with a period of positive climate change, which saw calmer seas and fewer summer storms – both helpful factors for the Norsemen.

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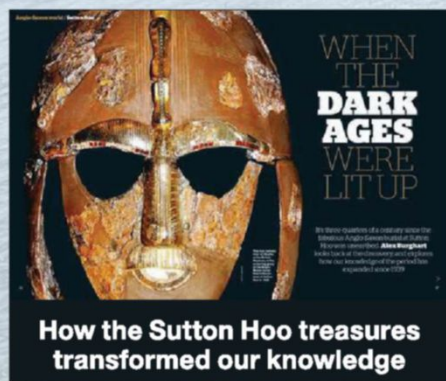


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WORLD LEADER

Both Emperor of Ethiopia and unwitting messiah around the world, Selassie's influence stretched far beyond the borders of his homeland

KING OF KINGS HAILE SELASSIE

The last Emperor of the 3,000-year-old Ethiopian monarchy was an accomplished politician for the modern age, as well as being revered as a living god, says **Nige Tassell...**



THE HISTORY MAKERS HAILE SELASSIE



1892 BORN TO RULE

Born Tafari Makonnen Woldemikael in Harer, Ethiopia, in 1892, the future monarch is part of the Solomonic dynasty that has ruled the country for several millennia. However, it is when he marries the niece to the heir to the throne in 1911 that his march to power truly begins and, five years later, he becomes Crown Prince to the throne. He proves to be a progressive regent, signing up Ethiopia to membership of the League Of Nations in 1923.



1930 CROWNED EMPEROR

When Empress Zewditu succumbs to diabetes in 1930, Tafari Makonnen – crowned King two years before – becomes Haile Selassie I, the 225th Emperor of Ethiopia. His coronation is a lavish affair, rumoured to have cost more than \$3 million. Dignitaries from many nations are in attendance, as is the British novelist Evelyn Waugh, covering the coronation as *The Times'* special correspondent.

Armed with a thick wad of papers, a diminutive, middle-aged man from East Africa slowly approached the podium at the General Assembly of the League Of Nations in Geneva on 20 June 1936. His gait was both measured and defiant, the poise of a man with a purpose. He was the Emperor of Ethiopia and his name was Haile Selassie.

The Emperor had travelled to Switzerland to test the League Of Nations' solidarity. As the leader of one of the few African countries not under colonial rule, Selassie was there to request assistance in defeating a violent aggressor. In October 1935, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini had ordered the invasion and occupation of Ethiopia as part of his grand design to create a latter-day Roman Empire in the Horn of Africa. The Ethiopian army couldn't withstand the might of the Italian forces, whose use of air power and chemical weapons overwhelmed them. Selassie – the man known as the Lion of Judah to his subjects – was pushed into exile.

As he stepped forward to the microphone, a noisy disturbance broke out in the chamber as unsympathetic quarters voiced their disapproval. But Selassie didn't falter. He

offered a considered and reasoned appraisal of why the League had to unite against Mussolini and his expansionist actions. To Selassie's eyes, the League's 50-plus member states had, eight months previously, promised assistance. But none had come. "What answer shall I take back to my people?" he asked the congregation of ministers and statesmen, before making a chillingly prophetic declaration. "It is us today. It will be you tomorrow."

Despite Ethiopia having been a member of the League since 1923, Selassie received sympathetic applause and little else. Instead, the League actually decided to lift the sanctions imposed on Italy. But, while he failed to mobilise the Western world against Mussolini, Selassie's appearance in Geneva did make him known worldwide. Named as *TIME* magazine's Man Of The Year, he would become one of the 20th century's most recognisable African leaders and a man still revered – even, worshipped – in certain parts of the world today.

BIRTH RIGHTS

Selassie had been Ethiopia's sovereign for half a decade when Italy launched its invasion. Born in a mud-and-wattle hut in 1892, his birthplace belied his genealogy and pedigree. His given

name was Tafari Makonnen Woldemikael and he was a member of the Solomonic dynasty descended from King Solomon of Israel. He married the niece of the heir to the throne and, after notable depositions, by 1916 Tafari Makonnen had worked his way up to the position of Crown Prince. Appealing to both traditional and modern quarters in high-ranking Ethiopian society, he was now heir to the throne. On the death of Empress Zewditu in 1930, Tafari became Emperor, taking the name Haile Selassie.

In rising to power, Selassie had shown his political agility when outflanking his opponents. He was undeniably ruthless, too – a characteristic that his short, wiry frame seemed to disguise. One political enemy described him thus: "He creeps like a mouse, but has the jaws of a lion." Operating many years before the phrase came into circulation, here was a fighter who very much punched above his weight.

The 225th Emperor in a lineage stretching back three millennia, Selassie was its most worldly. As Crown Prince, in 1923, he had signed Ethiopia up to membership of the newly formed League Of Nations. His thinking behind the decision was clear-eyed and pragmatic: "We need European progress only because we are surrounded by it." Where his many imperial forebears had stayed insular, Selassie was a true internationalist, one confirmed by his later adoption of the ideals of pan-Africanism.

While still a believer in the divine right of kings, Selassie attempted to reduce the iniquities in Ethiopian society that were highly conspicuous in the early years of his rule. The capital, Addis Ababa, was described, in the year of his coronation, as resembling "A shanty town

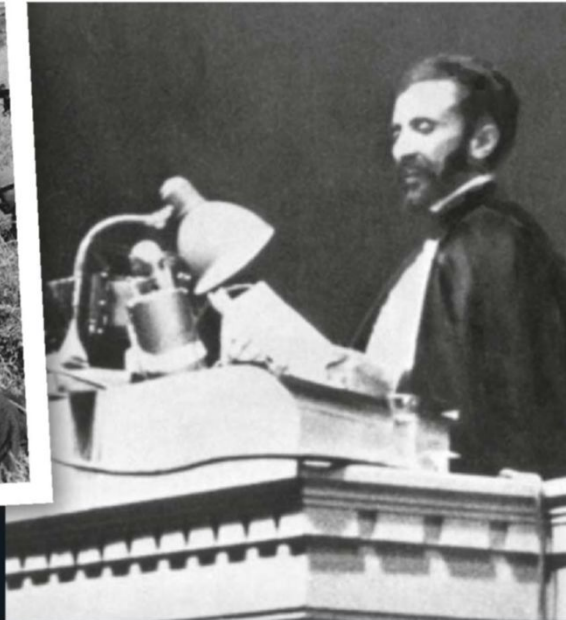
BOB MARLEY, FROM HIS SONG
SELASSIE IS THE CHAPEL
**"All the world should know
That man is the angel
And our God, the king of kings"**





1935 ITALIAN INVASION

On 3 October 1935, Italian forces cross the border into Ethiopia (from Eritrea). Using aerial warfare and poison gas, Mussolini's troops reach the capital Addis Ababa in May 1936, three days after Haile Selassie has left the country on the Imperial Railway. Mussolini refused to allow his commanders to bomb the Emperor's train.



JUNE 1936 PLEA FOR AID

In June 1936, Haile Selassie arrives in Geneva where he addresses the League Of Nations, calling on the organisation's principles of collective responsibility to defeat Mussolini's fascism. "It is us today," he pointedly tells the General Assembly. "It will be you tomorrow."

with wedding-cake trimmings" – the trappings of the monarchy were very much at odds with everyday existence on the streets of the capital.

In 1931, he introduced the country's first written constitution, before embarking on a programme to establish schools across the country. Ethiopia had taken its first steps on the road to modernity when Mussolini's troops landed in the autumn of 1935.

CHURCHILL AND MR STRONG

Forced into exile as the Italians approached Addis Ababa the following spring, Selassie travelled to Britain, initially staying in London

the capital. There, he received a cable from Churchill: "It is with deep pleasure that the British nation and Empire have learned of Your Imperial Majesty's welcome home. Your Majesty was the first of the lawful sovereigns to be driven from his throne and country by the Fascist-Nazi criminals, and you are the first to return in triumph."

Ethiopia remained under British administration for a few months, before having its sovereignty returned the following January. Back on the throne, Selassie wasted no time in continuing Ethiopia's – albeit slow – march towards modernity. In 1942, he

DIVINE REDEEMER THE BLACK MESSIAH

"Look to Africa for the crowning of a black king. He shall be the redeemer." The earlier words of Jamaican black nationalist Marcus Garvey are the ones that effectively anointed Selassie as a god incarnate when he became Emperor of Ethiopia in 1930. Known prior to his coronation as Ras Tafari Makonnen, a new religion in Jamaica – Rastafarianism – would bear his name.

Followers of the Rastafarian faith believe that Selassie is the one to lead them to the righteous world of Zion, often meaning Ethiopia – effectively returning them, freed, to Africa. Selassie himself was less sure. "I told them clearly that I am a man, that I am mortal, and that I will be replaced by the oncoming generation, and that they should never make a mistake in assuming or pretending that a human being is emanated from a deity."

"An awareness of our past is essential to the establishment of our personality and our identity as Africans"

Haile Selassie

and Worthing before spending four years in Bath (see *Life in Bath*, page 49). By 1940, though, Mussolini's grand ambitions in East Africa had been thwarted. When the Italians attacked British Somaliland, a devastating counter-offensive pushed them back. Ethiopia was now under British control and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill authorised Selassie's return to Africa, flying the Emperor to Egypt incognito, under the pseudonym of Mr Strong.

Selassie arrived back in Addis Ababa on 5 May 1941, in the back of an Alfa Romeo, exactly five years to the day since the Italians had entered

abolished any legal basis for slavery, making several slave-related offences punishable by death. At the end of World War II, he continued his commitment to collective security – despite the disappointment of Geneva in 1936 – by signing his country up to the new United Nations. He even sent troops to aid the United Nations Command in the Korean War (1950–53).

Selassie continued to advance Ethiopia domestically too. In 1955, a second constitution extended voting rights to every citizen, making the Ethiopian parliament's lower house an elected chamber. However, the Emperor's



THE FAITH LIVES ON
Thousands of Rastafarians gather at Ethiopia's 2005 Africa Unite concert

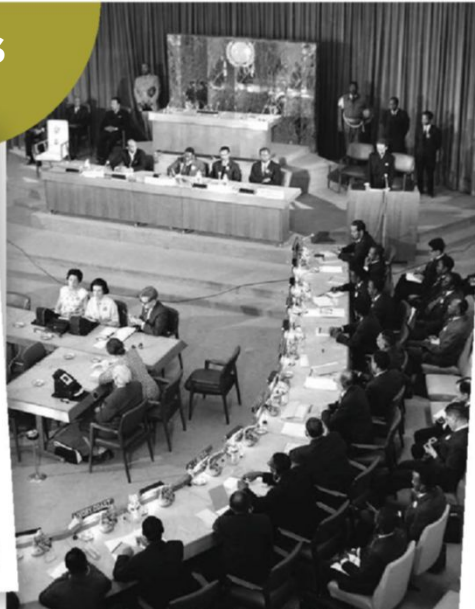


THE HISTORY MAKERS HAILE SELASSIE



1941 RETURN OF THE KING

Having spent four years in exile in Britain, Haile Selassie returns to Ethiopia in 1941, following the Italian withdrawal from Africa after heavy losses against British forces. PM Winston Churchill sends a cable to Selassie expressing his “deep pleasure” at the Emperor’s return to power. In January 1942, Britain hands back full sovereignty to Ethiopia.



1963 AFRICA UNITED

In 1963, Selassie’s deeply held principles of international cooperation and collective responsibility underline his founding of the Organisation of African Unity, a conglomeration of 32 African states, most of whom had just announced their independence from colonial rule.



APRIL 1966 A RASTA WELCOME

Haile Selassie’s plane is swamped by an enthusiastic crowd as it lands in Jamaica on 21 April 1966. The well-wishers – those of the Rastafarian religion that bears the Emperor’s birth name – believe his visit to be the coming of the black messiah. Annually, 21 April is still celebrated by Rastafarians as Grounation Day.

critics would suggest these were piecemeal reforms that actually solidified the status quo while offering the veneer of progress. After all, the wording of the constitution itself reiterated that “The person of the Emperor is sacred. His dignity is inviolable and His Power indisputable.”

In 1963, Selassie helped found the Organisation of African Unity, drawing up its charter and successfully persuading 31 other independent African nations to join. The political agility that had originally brought him to power seemingly knew no bounds; at the very height of the Cold War, he was even able to secure foreign aid from both the US and the USSR.

RELIGIOUS IDOL

Despite being the subject of a failed coup in 1960 while in Brazil, Selassie continued his state visits. In 1966, he made his most symbolic overseas appearance since his appeal to the League Of Nations 30 years before when he visited Jamaica. In 1916, the Jamaican black nationalist activist Marcus Garvey had instructed his followers to “look to Africa for the crowning of a black king. He shall be the redeemer.” So, when Selassie ascended the Ethiopian throne in 1930, to many Jamaicans, he was the redeemer Garvey had spoken of, the black messiah. A new religion that took its name from Selassie’s birth name – Rastafarianism – was born.

Even so, as his plane landed at Palisadoes Airport in Kingston on 21 April 1966, Selassie couldn’t have been prepared for the scenes. The

island’s Rastafarians – instantly recognisable for their dreadlocks and unkempt beards, in marked sartorial contrast to Selassie’s full military garb – had convened in their tens of thousands. “They broke police lines and

“Peace is a day-to-day problem, the product of a multitude of events and judgments. Peace is not an ‘is,’ it is a ‘becoming’.”

Haile Selassie

swarmed around the Emperor’s DC-6,” reported a correspondent from *LIFE* magazine. “They kept touching his plane, yelling ‘God is here!’ ... But Selassie seemed to love the attention these strange, wild-eyed, lawless and feared Jamaicans gave him.”

ON THE WANE

As symbolic as the trip had been, back in Ethiopia Selassie’s star was on the wane. Having encouraged the education of his subjects, often at schools and universities overseas, the Emperor was now open to criticism from these same citizens who could measure the slow speed of social and economic progress in their homeland. And, now well into his 70s, Selassie’s sharp political brain was losing its edge.

A famine between 1972 and 1974, with estimated losses of life into the hundreds of thousands, gravely damaged Selassie’s

popularity and destabilised his regime.

In February 1974, Addis Ababa saw four days of rioting, followed by an extended general strike the following month. Members of the military were among the most angry. Voicing their dissent about low pay – and not placated by Selassie’s promises of a 33 per cent rise in salaries – they deposed the Emperor in September 1974, placing him under house arrest.

The intention was to put Selassie’s son, Crown Prince Asfaw Wossen, who was out of the country at the time of the deposition, on the throne. However, when the Prince condemned the events of

Bloody Saturday – which saw 60 high-ranking Selassie loyalists executed – the interim military administration, known as the Derg, renounced his right to succession. The Derg remained in power, ending 3,000 years of monarchical rule.

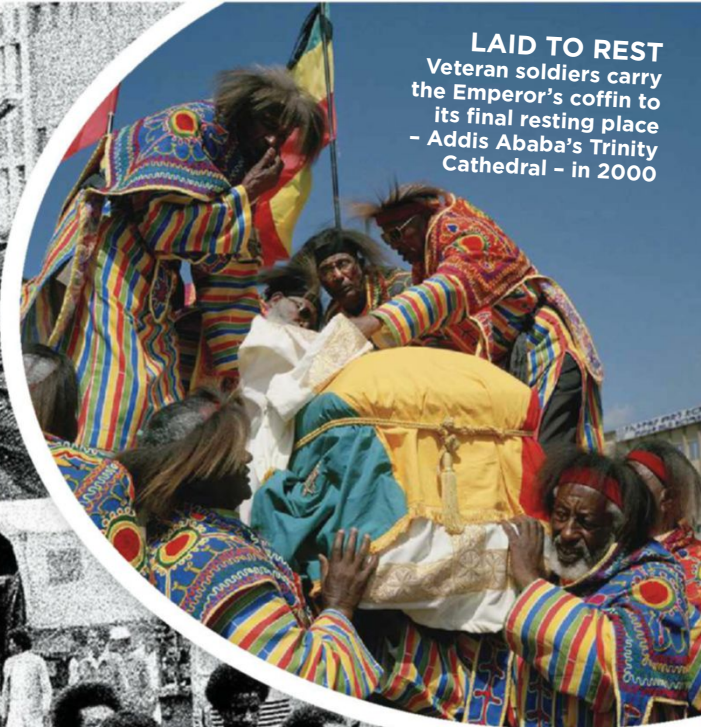
On 27 August 1975, at the age of 83, Haile Selassie died. The official reason given was respiratory failure after a prostate operation. His supporters, though, continue to believe he was murdered by the Derg.

In 1992, after the fall of the Derg, Selassie’s bones were discovered under concrete in the grounds of his palace. Some reports even suggested he had been buried beneath a latrine. If true, it was an inauspicious, ungracious end to the life of one of the chief architects of modern Africa. ●

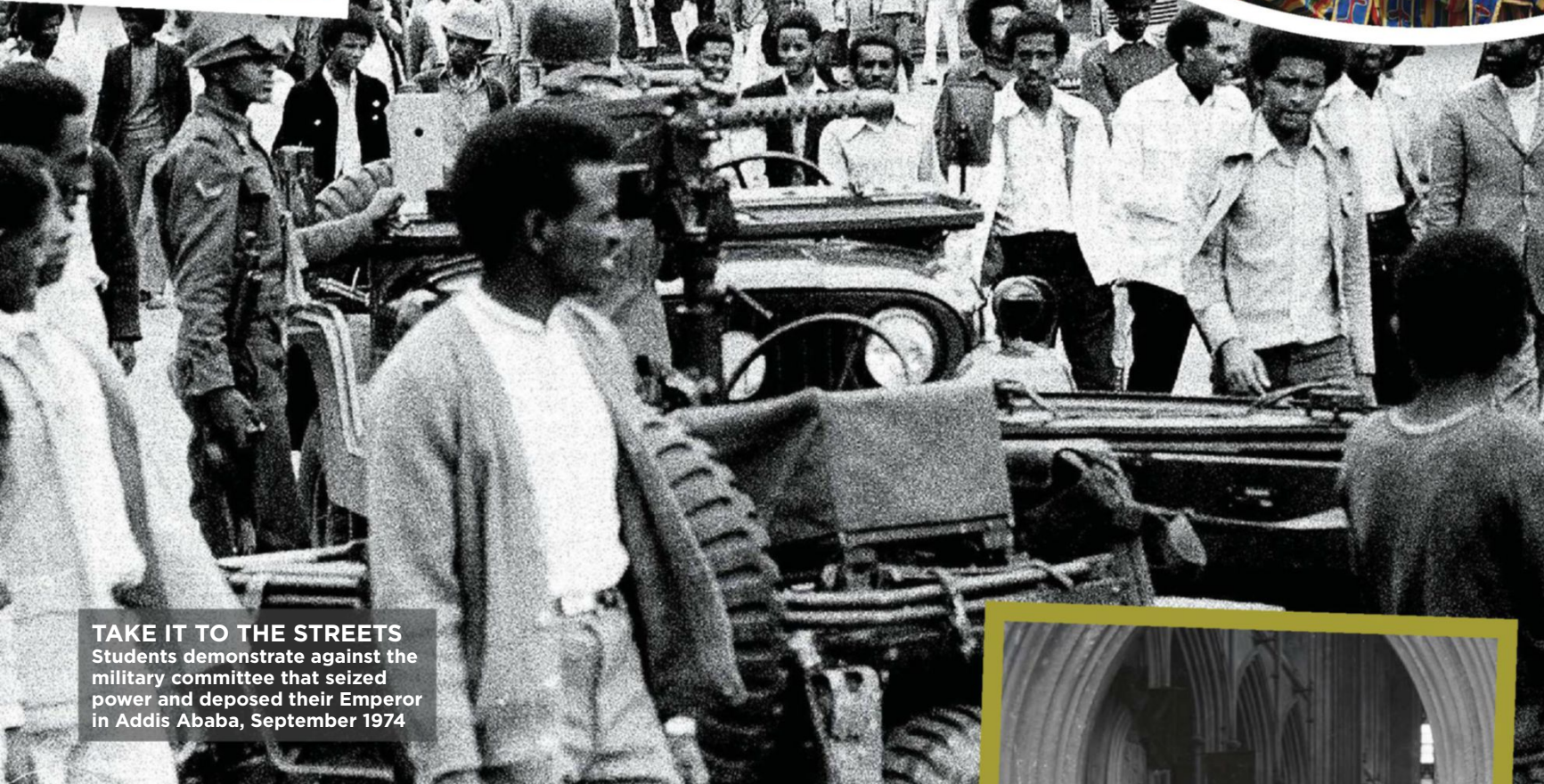


1974 DEATH OF A DYNASTY

After growing domestic discontent, Selassie is deposed in September 1974, bringing the long-reigning Solomonic dynasty to an end. He is dead within a year. The cause of death is officially given as respiratory failure, but many believe he was killed by members of the new military government.



LAI'D TO REST
Veteran soldiers carry the Emperor's coffin to its final resting place - Addis Ababa's Trinity Cathedral - in 2000



TAKE IT TO THE STREETS
Students demonstrate against the military committee that seized power and deposed their Emperor in Addis Ababa, September 1974

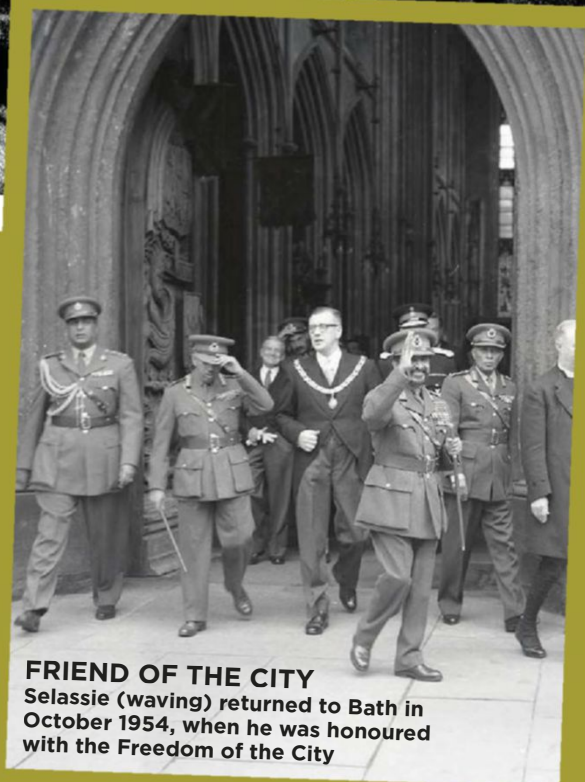
SELASSIE GOES WEST LIFE IN BATH

Having been forced into exile in May 1936, as the invading Italians closed in on Addis Ababa, Haile Selassie sought refuge in Britain. Cheaper than London but still with a large degree of elegance, Bath was to be the destination for the Emperor and his modest entourage. Here, they settled into life at Fairfield House, a Georgian mansion on the city's western outskirts, which he bought for £3,500.

Selassie would spend four years in the West Country, during which time he kept

himself busy. He dictated his autobiography, campaigned for international action to be taken against Italy and, in order to ward off bankruptcy, launched a succession of lawsuits against all and sundry. He also occasionally attended local events, such as the Bath Horse Show.

In 1958, 17 years after he returned to Ethiopia, Selassie donated his former home to the city. Fairfield House then became a care home for the elderly.



FRIEND OF THE CITY
Selassie (waving) returned to Bath in October 1954, when he was honoured with the Freedom of the City



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ALL THE WORLD'S
A STAGE

He may have re-sculpted English history to suit his plot lines, but there's no denying that Shakespeare - brought to life here by Artist Geoff Tristram - did it with style

£1

The amount the First Folio (see page 56) of the Bard's complete works originally sold for - that's around £100 today

SHAKESPEARE 400

THE MAN WHO WROTE HISTORY

Since England's most legendary wordsmith shuffled off this mortal coil four centuries ago, for better or worse, his history plays have influenced the way we've viewed our past, writes Pat Reid...

SHAKESPEARE 400 THE MAN WHO WROTE HISTORY

Today, Shakespeare's global fame largely rests on his tragedies, of which *Hamlet* is the most popular. But 420 years ago, it was through his trail-blazing plays about English history that the young actor, poet and playwright first made a name for himself in the hurly-burly of the London theatre.

Even among those who are not big aficionados of the Bard, most have probably heard of plays like *Henry V* and *Richard III*. For a start, Sir Laurence Olivier made hugely successful films of both of these (and *Hamlet* as well), which ensured that they would be inflicted on several successive generations of schoolchildren.

But it was an action-packed trilogy of plays inspired by the ill-fated Henry VI that first announced Will as a force to be reckoned with in the early 1590s while, five years later, his *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2* showed the capital that this was a genius-level playwright.

PLAY ON

Shakespeare didn't write his plays in chronological order, but the ten English histories make for truly satisfying and glorious reading, viewing or listening if approached in this way. Now, for those already confused by all the Henrys and Richards flying around, take heart. Eight of the plays are strongly connected, with just the first and last – *King John* and *Henry VIII* respectively – falling outside the overall narrative. Interestingly, these two are often cited as Shakespeare's least popular (meaning worst) plays. However,

both have returned to the British stage in recent years, and have been well received.

In 2012, the BBC triumphantly brought four of Shakespeare's histories to a new TV audience with lavish miniseries *The Hollow Crown*. Starring Ben Whishaw (as Richard II), Jeremy Irons (as Henry IV) and Tom Hiddleston (as Hal and Henry V), it captured the political machinations and earthy comedy of Shakespeare's works, while adding a welcome helping of epic sweep. This

SOMETHING IS ROTTEN

John Lydon, vocalist of punk-rock band the Sex Pistols, based his **Johnny Rotten** stage persona on the titular **hunchbacked tyrant** from Laurence Olivier's 1955 *Richard III*.

THE VILLAIN OF THE PIECE
Benedict Cumberbatch stars in the title role of *Richard III* in the BBC's series *The Hollow Crown*



Alas, poor Rick

Richard II is thought to be the only Shakespearean play that has never been made into a cinema film

year, follow-up miniseries *The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses* will cover the rarely seen *Henry VI, Parts 1-3*, and the reliably excellent *Richard III* – the latter with *Sherlock* superstar Benedict Cumberbatch in the title role.

It's one of Shakespeare's early histories that led to the very first published mention of the dramatist on record. In 1592, a pamphlet, purporting to be written by playwright Robert Greene from his deathbed, appeared to lambast

SHAKESPEARE'S CHRONICLES THE TEN HISTORY PLAYS

Romance blooms
between Henry V and
Catherine of Valois



KING JOHN

▼ **When's it set?** 1199-1216

Richard I is dead, and his brother John struggles on the throne. In his various conflicts, he's aided and abetted by his mother Elinor (of Aquitaine) and nephew.

RICHARD II

When's it set? 1398-1400

The compelling tale of Richard, a rightful but increasingly corrupt king whose throne is usurped by Bolingbroke (later Henry IV) – a noble he's wronged.

Contains the famous "This sceptered isle" speech, delivered by Bolingbroke's dying father, John of Gaunt.

HENRY IV, PART 1

When's it set? 1402-03

Introduces the hilarious fictional character of Falstaff, a portly and debauched old knight whose main task in life is to lead astray the young heir to the throne, Prince Hal. Henry IV is a mature but troubled monarch whose headaches include fiery war hero Hotspur raising an army against him.

HENRY IV, PART 2

When's it set? 1403-13

This darker instalment sees Hal continue his somewhat Machiavellian journey towards kingship, which Falstaff hopes to benefit from. Indeed, with his father Henry IV on his deathbed, Hal commits a major faux pas by prematurely grabbing the crown – quite the ill omen.

HENRY V

▲ **When's it set?** 1414-20

This epic takes in the epochal events of 1415. Hal is now the titular King Henry, a reformed character and a righteous, inspirational leader, who has a date with destiny at the Battle of Agincourt. Also features bilingual romantic comedy with a French princess.



Richard McCabe and Joseph Millson in *King John* at Stratford's Swan Theatre



LAST WORDS

Playwright Robert Greene writes a spite-filled review of young Shakespeare from his deathbed

a young and poorly-educated actor-writer “Who thinks himself the only Shake-scene in a country”. Greene was one of the so-called university wits who dominated playwriting at the time, and he was clearly rattled by the appearance of the man he infamously described as an “upstart crow”.

Greene refers to a “Tiger’s heart wrapped in a player’s hide”, which seems to be an allusion to a line from *Henry VI, Part 3*: “Oh tiger’s heart wrapped in a woman’s hide!” spoken by the Duke of York to Queen Margaret. It was a scathing review, to be sure, but the 28-year-old Shakespeare had clearly arrived.

And the environment into which he had arrived was a lively one, to say the least. The concept of theatre as we’ve come to know it was still a relatively

ACHIEVING GREATNESS LIFE OF THE BARD

William Shakespeare left a vast footprint on our culture, yet we know very little of what he was like. But he is just one of many notable playwrights from the era on whom biographical details are frustratingly short.

Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, near the modern-day city of Birmingham, around 23 April 1564. Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne.

His family were prosperous lower-middle class. His father, John, was a glove maker and rose to the rank of the town’s Chief Alderman, or Mayor.

As a boy, William likely attended the town’s excellent grammar school. Here, he would have experienced a learning regime that seems brutal today, but which would have left him fully equipped to become a professional writer.

His early claim to fame was being the youngest man in Stratford to get married. He was 18, and his bride, Anne Hathaway, was several years older – and pregnant. The Shakespeares had three children, but we don’t know what William did for a living between 1585 and 1592.

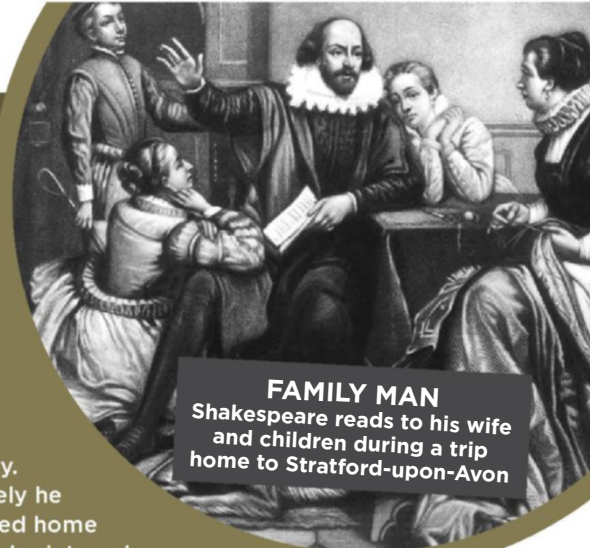
Thereafter, he lived and worked in London, but he never moved his family

to the big city. It’s likely he returned home at regular intervals.

By the 1590s, Shakespeare was an established actor and writer of plays. When plague closed the playhouses, he published a long poem, *Venus and Adonis*, to great success.

Shakespeare became a shareholder in a new company, the Lord Chamberlain’s Men, and, in 1599 they erected London’s biggest theatre, The Globe, on Bankside.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth I and the accession of James I and VI in 1603, Shakespeare’s company became The King’s Men. He would write many of his greatest works during James’s reign. Thanks to his share in the company and various other financial ventures, the Bard became a wealthy man. He died in 1616 in Stratford at the age of 52, on the date that may have been his birthday, 23 April.



FAMILY MAN
Shakespeare reads to his wife and children during a trip home to Stratford-upon-Avon

“It was a scathing review, but the 28-year-old Shakespeare had clearly arrived”

Shakespeare’s wicked Richard III orders the murders of his nephews



HENRY VI, PART 1

When’s it set? 1422-44

Despite being Henry V’s son, the placid and devout Henry VI is just too young to rule – and he’s got serious problems both at home and in France. It also features the French national heroine Joan of Arc, who goes by the name of Joan la Pucelle (‘the maid’) here.

HENRY VI, PART 2

When’s it set? 1445-55

Things get even worse in *Part 2*. Formidable Richard Plantagenet has his sights set on the throne, and Henry’s devious wife, Queen Margaret, has her own agenda, to say the least. The peasants are also getting antsy, with a rebellion briefly threatening the Crown.

HENRY VI, PART 3

When’s it set? 1455-71

Darkest and most violent of all is *Part 3*. Richard of York is killed by Margaret, but Richard’s son Edward then seizes the throne. Unluckily, Edward has two untrustworthy brothers – one of them the future Richard III. A major part also goes to Warwick, the ‘Kingmaker’.

RICHARD III

► **When’s it set?** 1477-85

The deformed, gloriously malevolent Richard murders his way to the throne. His victims include Henry VI, the Duke of Clarence (his brother), Edward IV (his other brother) and, of course, the Princes in the Tower. However, Richard will meet his match in Richmond, the future Henry VII.

HENRY VIII

When’s it set? 1521-33

Possibly Shakespeare’s most frustrating play, because it so resolutely doesn’t tell the story we all want, *Henry VIII* explores some of the court intrigues of Henry’s reign.

SHAKESPEARE 400 THE MAN WHO WROTE HISTORY

A FOOL'S PARADISE
Jacobean London's theatre district sat on the south bank of the Thames – a healthy distance from the city

FIRE WITH FIRE

The original **Globe theatre** burnt down in 1613, during a production of *Henry VIII*. A stage cannon ignited the theatre's thatched roof.

Hapless Henry

Thanks in part to the Bard, Henry VI is seen as a hapless fool, but he was an innovator in education

< new innovation. Indeed, the first purpose-built theatre had only been erected in 1567, when Shakespeare would have been three. It was called The Red Lion. The fact that it sounds more like a pub than a theatre is no coincidence – early theatrical performances in England often took place in the courtyards of inns.

Nowadays, when we think of great English actors, it's dignitaries of the stage like Dame Judi Dench and Sir Ben Kingsley that come to mind. In 1575, the players hadn't quite achieved that level of respectability – indeed, the entire theatrical profession was unceremoniously booted out of the city of London by the Mayor. Theatres were thought to be hotbeds of disease and debauchery, and so they were banished to locations on the capital's outskirts (see *Houses of Vice*, right). Holywell, north of the River Thames, was where theatrical impresario James Burbage built his stage, confusingly named 'The Theatre', in 1576. Two decades years later, Burbage's son Richard was on his way to becoming the greatest actor of the age, often excelling in parts written for him by Shakespeare.

After a dispute with The Theatre's leaseholder, Richard and William's company, the Lord Chamberlain's Men (named after their patron), crossed the River Thames in 1599. Burbage senior had, by now, passed away but

Shakespeare and company re-used the timbers from The Theatre to build what would become the most famous playhouse of all time, The Globe.

In Shakespeare's day, theatre companies had what we would now consider a dizzyingly fast turnaround. It was not unknown for a writer to churn out ten plays a year (although Shakespeare doesn't appear to have been quite so prolific) and audiences had an insatiable hunger for new material.

FAVOURER STATUS

So why did Shakespeare write history plays? They were simply a hugely popular genre at the time – a bit like the ubiquitous Westerns that dominated

ALL THE PEOPLE MERELY PLAYERS
Actors take to the most famous theatrical stage in the world, Shakespeare's Globe at Bankside

“The stories were suitably dramatic – although this didn't stop Shakespeare taking breathtaking liberties with the facts”

1950s schedules in the early days of the US television industry, or the superhero flicks that fill cinema screens today.

Theatre in England had its roots in the miracle and mystery plays that were

associated with the Catholic Church. Ever since Henry VIII had pronounced himself Supreme Head of the Church of England in 1534, Catholic England had been on the back foot. When Henry's daughter Elizabeth took the throne in 1558, it meant that England would forever remain a Protestant nation.

This was bad news for some English practitioners and admirers of the visual arts. The Dissolution of the Monasteries was a seismic event in English society, and the arts were

not spared either. The Protestant antipathy towards graven images meant that effigies of saints were liable to get smashed. In Stratford-upon-Avon's Guild Chapel, the religious-themed medieval Doom

paintings were whitewashed over – possibly under the supervision of a Chamberlain named John Shakespeare. The following year, 1564, saw the birth of his son, William.

And yet, in spite of all the upheaval and anxiety it unleashed, the rise of Protestant England ushered in a flowering of both the written word and the popular theatre quite unlike anything that had gone before.

In this brave new world, to borrow a phrase from *The Tempest*, historical plays became vital as a way of emphasising the increasing importance of the state – with the divinely appointed monarch at its head. Shakespeare certainly didn't invent the genre, but he became one of its leading practitioners – ultimately writing himself into history in the process.

It helped that the stories themselves were already suitably dramatic

– although this didn't stop Shakespeare taking breathtaking liberties with the facts. Critics who delighted in spotting the inaccuracies in Mel Gibson's 1995 cinematic epic *Braveheart* would have found a clear predecessor in Shakespeare.

When the Bard messes with the facts, it's usually in the service of dramatic effect. For example, *Henry IV, Part 1* sees King Henry praising the warlike young Hotspur and wishing he had a son like that instead of his wastrel Prince of Wales, Hal. Eventually Hal and Hotspur do battle and a reformed Hal is the victor. It's an amazingly powerful moment but, historically, it's nonsense.

In real life, Hotspur was two decades older and he never met Hal in combat.

We've also got Shakespeare to thank for enshrining the idea of the Wars of the Roses in England's national mythology. There's a fantastic scene in *Henry VI, Part 1* where the members of rival factions pluck roses to proclaim their loyalties – red for the Lancastrians and white for the Yorkists. Not only did this never happen, but the Wars of the Roses weren't even widely known by that name that until the 19th century, when Shakespeare's idea was popularised in Sir Walter Scott's novel *Anne of Geierstein*.

But the most notorious accusations of inaccuracy levelled against Shakespeare are in connection with one of his best-known plays, *Richard III*.

BRAND DAMAGE

Even now, 400 years after Shakespeare's death, latter-day supporters of Richard claim that he was a courageous, virtuous, just (and handsome) monarch whose reputation was completely trashed by the Bard. The argument runs that Shakespeare wanted to stay in the good books of Queen Elizabeth I, the granddaughter of Henry VII. As Henry had defeated Richard at Bosworth and nabbed the throne, it made sense to the canny playwright to cast Richard as the bad guy. What resulted was Richard III as homicidal hunchback – the legendary villain who now holds a strong place in the national psyche.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Margaret of Anjou appears in four Shakespearean plays – more than any other character. Watch out for her in *Henry VI, Parts 1-3* and *Richard III*.



THE RED ROSE AND THE WHITE

Shakespeare's characters pluck their roses to declare their loyalties in this painting of a highly dramatic, and fictional, scene from *Henry VI, Part 1*

FOUL PLAY

If tickets were sold out, theatre-goers could pop down the road to watch the animal fights at Bear Garden



THE SCENE FOR SIN HOUSES OF VICE

Prostitutes, sword-fights, animal cruelty, boys dressed as girls... Just another day at the office for William Shakespeare and company

For the extraordinary quarter-century of Shakespeare's career (c1590-1616), Elizabethan and Jacobean theatre exploded in popularity. However, the city authorities tended to be dominated by Puritans who hated this profane and decidedly subversive new form of entertainment. The players' companies were duly banished to areas outside the city's jurisdiction, the so-called 'liberties', where the usual rules didn't apply.

South of the River Thames at Bankside, where big new theatres like the Rose, Swan and Globe sprang up, an afternoon (plays were staged in daylight) and evening's entertainment would have resembled an amped-up mixture of modern-day Soho, Amsterdam and Las Vegas, with a side order of Caligula's Rome for good measure.

One thing the Puritans objected to was the prostitutes who had a habit of plying their trade in the vicinity of theatres. Ironically, the biggest landowner thereabouts was the Bishop of Winchester, so ladies of the night were known as "the Bishop of Winchester's geese".

Puritans were also disturbed by the idea of common play-actors imitating their social superiors. This could lead to all kinds of inappropriate activity, ranging from satire to sedition. Equally unsettling was the fact that female roles were played by boys and young men – a clear inversion of the natural order and a likely corruptor of morals all round.

Fuelled by cheap ale and wine, the mainly male audiences would have thrilled to see the spectacle of stage combat (including sword-fights and battles), bust a gut laughing at the vulgar physical comedy and smutty wordplay, and possibly shed a tear or two to some of the most beautiful poetry ever heard on the English stage.

The theatres were also situated near the infamous Bear Garden, where chained animals were set upon by dogs for entertainment. Shakespeare's most famous stage direction, from *The Winter's Tale*, is "Exit, pursued by a bear" when unlucky Antigonus has a close encounter with a large and hungry mammal, and it may have been inspired by this animal-sports arena. There's even speculation that a real beast may have been used on stage.

THAT'S WORTH THE NOTING THE WRITING PROCESS

Shakespeare may currently hold the position of the world's most-celebrated writer, but this came gradually. During his own time he would have earned more as an actor than a wordsmith, and it was being a shareholder in players' companies that brought the big money.

He rarely wrote original material; Shakespeare's works were largely adaptations. For instance, while his main source for *Henry V* was *Holinshed's Chronicles*, it seems he was also heavily influenced by an earlier play, *The Famous Victories of Henry V*, material from which crops up in *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2* as well – although Shakespeare's version is richer and more sophisticated.

Writing in those days was a fiddly, scratchy and messy business. Shakespeare would have written with a goose-feather quill, using homemade ink and paper made from rags (parchment and vellum were more expensive and 'official').

When a play was ready for the stage, the actors were given only their own lines and cues (which they would have had to learn very quickly). This was partly to prevent piracy, but also to avoid wasting paper. But Shakespeare knew the players he was writing for, and sharing the stage with, and would have written to their strengths.

Versions of *Henry V* – probably pirated – were published during Shakespeare's lifetime and beyond, but it wasn't until the 1623 publication of the First Folio that we get the official version. Published seven years after its author's death, the Folio was put together by two of Shakespeare's colleagues, John Heminge and Henry Condell.

When Oxford's Bodleian Library was launched in 1602, plays were too downmarket to be included. In 1623, however, the Library obtained a copy of Shakespeare's Folio. This was later lost, and was not found until 1905 when, after an appeal for donations, the Library bought it once more.

DID WILLIAM ACTUALLY WRITE THE PLAYS?

The short answer is yes. Every credible expert agrees on that. But this hasn't stopped naysayers having their fun. These are some of the 'true' wordsmiths behind Shakespeare's quill, according to the conspiracy theorists...

EDWARD DE VERE, EARL OF OXFORD (1550-1604)

A philanderer and spendthrift who once killed a man and who reputedly farted in front of the Queen, de Vere had a colourful life. What's lacking, however, is any demonstrable connection to Shakespeare.

FRANCIS BACON (1561-1626)

A politician, philosopher, one of the great minds of the age and a writer, Bacon lacked Shakespeare's poetic abilities, flair for popular entertainment, or, indeed, the sense of humour.

CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE (1564-93)

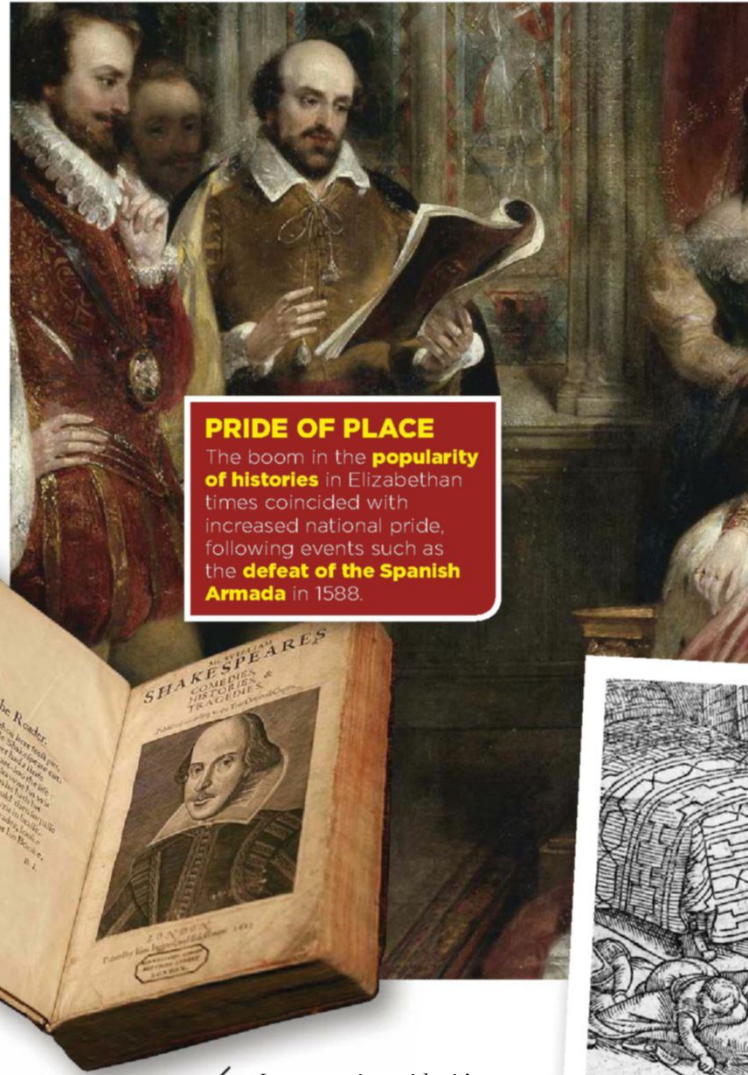
Apparently, playwright Marlowe faked his death to secretly write the works of Shakespeare. That's like saying Jimi Hendrix faked his own death to secretly record the songs of David Bowie. Next!

QUEEN ELIZABETH I (1533-1603)

Exceptionally clever and a theatre fan, Elizabeth was also the most scrutinised person in the land. Presumably someone would have noticed her cranking out the 900,000-odd words of Shakespeare?

EMILIA LANIER (1569-1645)

The possible true identity of the "Dark Lady" of the Bard's sonnets, this Anglo-Venetian poet has now joined the list of implausible candidates for actual authorship of the works.



PRIDE OF PLACE

The boom in the popularity of histories in Elizabethan times coincided with increased national pride, following events such as the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

HIGH TIME
The First Folio of the Bard's works, its full title: *Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies*, was published in 1623

Inaccuracies aside, it's intriguing to note the things that Shakespeare leaves out. *King John* makes no reference to Magna Carta (1215), while *Richard II* has forgotten all about the Peasants' Revolt (1381). There's also no mention of English longbows at the Battle of Agincourt in *Henry V*, and we're deprived of the Bard's take on Henry VIII's six wives and their various fates.

TROUBLE MAKERS

During the reigns of Elizabeth I, and then James I and VI (the first Stuart King of England became Shakespeare's patron upon his accession in 1603, and the Bard's company was renamed The King's Men) the theatre was a risky place to be. Men often carried weapons, and a thoughtless remark about religion or the monarch could land you in serious trouble. Shakespeare's contemporary Christopher Marlowe was facing charges of atheism when he was stabbed to death in a tavern brawl in 1593. It is thought that Thomas Kyd (author of hugely popular play *The Spanish Tragedy*) was tortured to provide 'evidence' against Marlowe.

Ben Jonson, another great writer, was flung into prison for his seditious 1597 play *The Isle of Dogs* (written with Thomas Nashe, who escaped imprisonment), and there's even a story that, as a young man, Shakespeare won his first acting gig after his unfortunate predecessor got himself killed in a duel.

PRETENDERS TO THE QUILL
Were playwright Christopher Marlowe (left) or peer Edward de Vere the real writers behind the Bard's words?





THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH
Shakespeare and his troupe read to Elizabeth I, who couldn't be seen visiting the seedy theatres of London



DEATH HAS HIS DAY
The Death of Macdonwald, a woodcut from Holinshed's Chronicles, which informed Shakespeare's Macbeth

The era also saw the rise of a new breed of historian, notably Raphael Holinshed (died c1580). Shakespeare's ravenous cannibalisation of *Holinshed's Chronicles* would lead to some of his greatest dramatic works. Apart from the Henrys, Richards and poor old John, Shakespeare's late, great tragedy *Macbeth*, was taken from Holinshed. It tells the heavily-doctored tale of an 11th-century Scottish king and the English-backed invasion that brought his downfall. It's thought that Shakespeare invented the role of noble Banquo in these events, presenting him in a flattering light, as an ancestor of King James.

FAR-FLUNG FABLES

Other Shakespearean plays such as *Cymbeline* and *King Lear*, would also have counted as history to his audiences, set as they were in pre-Norman Britain, although one that is more the province of legend than record.

Of course, Shakespeare didn't restrict himself to English history for his subject matter. Some of his greatest and most unforgettable plays – such as *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Coriolanus* – took place in Ancient Rome. If his English histories were

THE ANCIENT TALES NEW TOLD SHAKESPEARE'S HISTORIES ON SCREEN



HENRY V (1944)

Laurence Olivier was director, lead actor and co-screenwriter of this patriotic Technicolor epic. Intended to boost the Allies' morale amid World War II, it was an Oscar-winning hit.



JULIUS CAESAR (1953)

Method actor Marlon Brando took on the pivotal role of Mark Antony in this strong Hollywood production. Louis Calhern played Caesar, while James Mason and Deborah Kerr co-starred.



KING JOHN (1984)

Between 1978 and 1985, the BBC screened adaptations of all Shakespeare's plays. This one is of interest partly because it features UK comedy legend Leonard Rossiter in the title role.



RICHARD III (1995)

With the action updated to a Fascist version of 1930s England, Ian McKellen heads an excellent cast and delivers "My kingdom for a horse!" from an immobilised Jeep.



THE HOLLOW CROWN (2012)

Strictly speaking it's a TV miniseries, but this BBC co-production brought lavish cinematic values to *Richard II*, *Henry IV, Parts 1 and 2* and *Henry V*. The second part, with *Henry VI, Parts 1-3* and *Richard III*, is due this year.

"Shakespeare's English histories were generically akin to westerns, his Roman plays, science fiction"

generically akin to westerns, then his Roman plays were more like science fiction. They offered a window into an exotic, scarcely-believable world of power and sophistication.

That said, the more educated playgoers would have been familiar with the history, language and culture of the Mediterranean world. Shakespeare himself had "small Latin and less Greek", to use fellow playwright Ben Jonson's phrase, but he was also admirably described as England's answer to the Roman playwright Terence (c195-159 BC). It's believed that Shakespeare's favourite book from childhood might have been *Metamorphoses* by the Roman poet Ovid (43 BC – AD 17).

For his Roman plays, Shakespeare would have turned to such reading materials as Thomas North's recently published translation of *Plutarch's Lives*. It's here that we get perhaps the most vivid illustration of just how good a writer Shakespeare was. Plutarch's

Life of Antony features a detailed and memorable description of the barge in which fabled Egyptian monarch Cleopatra travelled to meet Roman Consul Antony. Shakespeare clearly copied this description from Plutarch, using it as a speech for his invented character Enobarbus. But the changes he does make elevate North's words into some of the most vivid and sensual poetry in the English language.

And ultimately, this is where Shakespeare's greatest power lies. He may be somewhat lacking in regard to chronology and historical accuracy, but his masterful deployment of language reveals essential truths that speak to us all. 📖

GET HOOKED

READ

Pat Reid, author of this article, is the founder and Editor of *Shakespeare Magazine*, a quarterly publication dedicated to the life and works of the Bard. Visit www.shakespearemagazine.com for more information.

Brave new stage

It's thought the Bard also contributed to two other history plays: *Edward III* and *Sir Thomas More*

AT A GLANCE

On 6 June 1944, D-Day, the meticulously planned Operation Overlord – an Allied invasion of Nazi Europe – was launched. For this decisive moment in World War II to succeed, the landings at Normandy required thousands of troops, ships, planes – and some novel inventions.

INVENTIONS THAT SHAPED D-DAY

As American, British and Canadian troops stormed the beaches and dropped behind enemy lines, they were joined by some remarkable – even funny – innovations

BEGINNING OF THE END

As D-Day involves simultaneous assaults on five beaches and several airborne missions, timing is paramount. To pin-point when the initial landing of 160,000 troops should commence, British mathematician Arthur Thomas Doodson creates a machine that can predict the tide. Once the beaches are taken, Allied supply ships pour in and more than 2 million more men disembark by the end of August.

THE LANDINGS

With Overlord years in the planning, new vehicles are devised and tested to face the fierce German defences...



SEE YOU ON THE BEACH

Although not unique to D-Day, landing craft have never been used on such a scale. With forward ramps, the different kinds of craft - from the troop-carrying Higgins boat to larger vessels loaded with jeeps or tanks - unload directly on to the beaches, giving the Allied attack much-needed speed.



AIRBORNE ASSAULTS

Horsa gliders are towed over in their thousands to drop troops and equipment deep behind the beaches. They are flimsy, made of wooden frames and fabric, so don't really land, but rather crash. Their wings and tail are specially designed to break apart - as seen here at the British 6th Airborne's landing zone near Ranville.



DEFENDING FORTRESS EUROPE

The Germans don't know where the invasion will happen, but their coastal defences are still formidable. As well as gun batteries dug into the countryside, iron 'hedgehogs' pepper the beaches to rip apart landing craft, while posts with mines on top - nicknamed 'Rommel's Asparagus' after the Field Marshal in charge of fortifications - are positioned where gliders are expected to land.

HOBART'S FUNNIES

The unusual, but effective, tanks of the 79th Armoured Division...



GIVEN A STEP UP

After the failed Dieppe Raid of 1942 (where standard tanks were woefully insufficient), British Major General Percy Hobart is tasked with re-designing armoured vehicles to carry out specific jobs. They are named 'Hobart's Funnies' after him. This Sherman is helped up a ditch by the ARK, which carries ramps so it can build instant bridges.

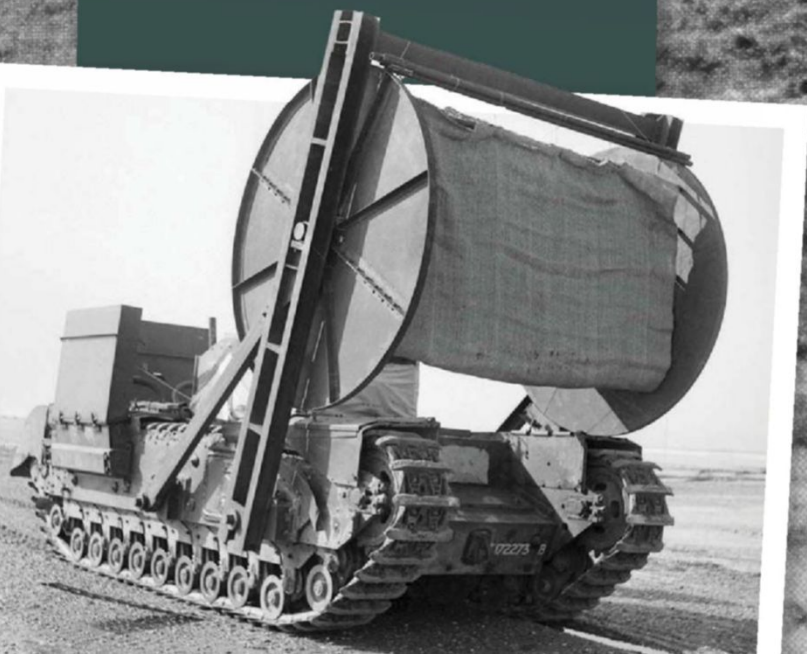


ARMoured AMPHIBIANS

The DD (meaning 'Duplex Drive', but dubbed the 'Donald Duck') is a swimming tank. The engine powers the tracks on land, and the propellers while in water. A canvas screen is raised to act as a hull. They work well on four of beaches, but all are lost on Omaha as dozens sink in high waves.

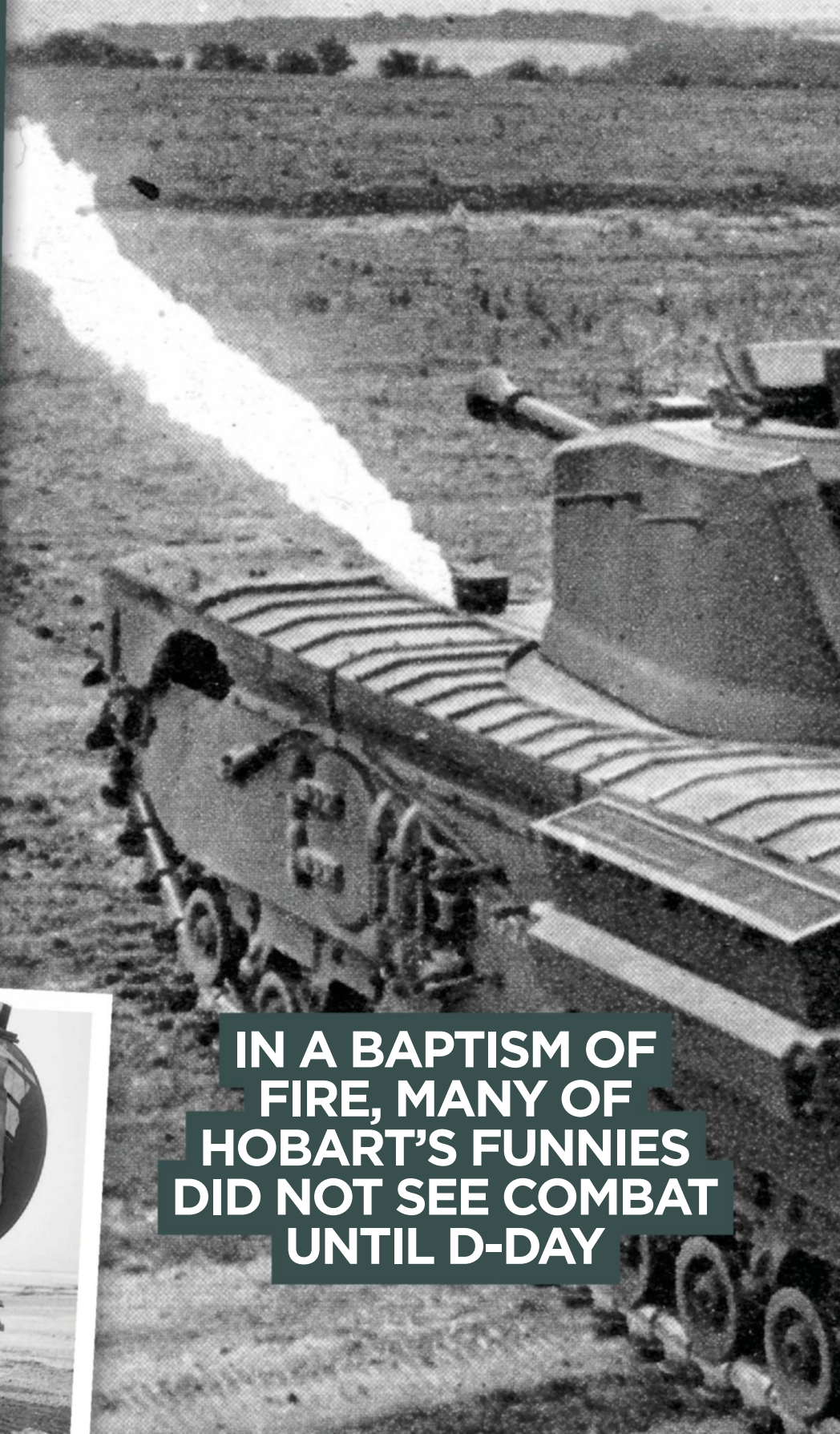
LAY OUT THE RED CARPET

The Churchill AVRE (Armoured Vehicle Royal Engineers) undergoes several modifications, one of which is called the Bobbin. Carried in front of the tank is a reel of three-metre-wide reinforced matting – on soft sand or muddy terrain, this can be laid out like a carpet.



FIRE STARTER

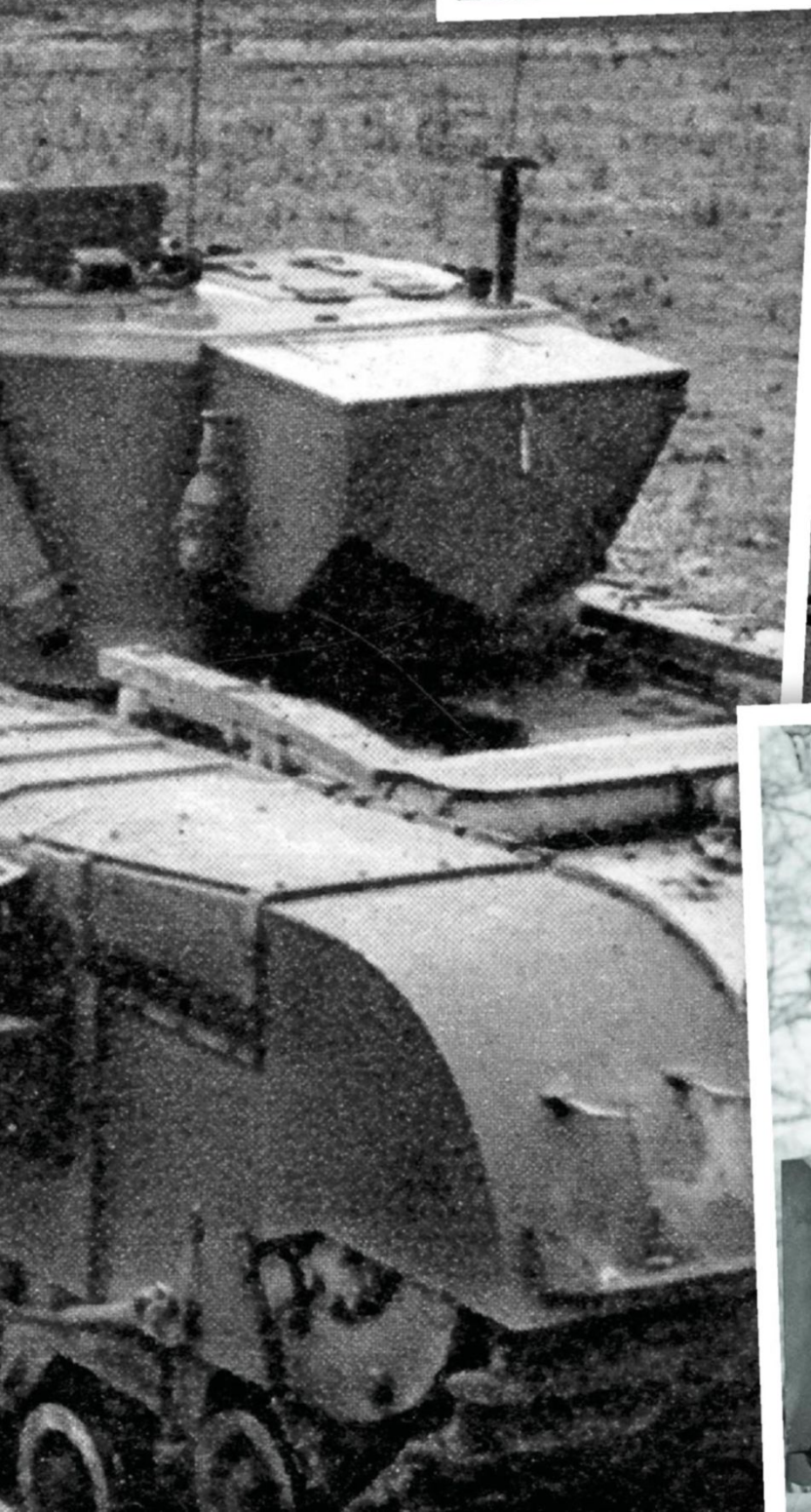
Instead of a front machine gun, the 'Crocodile' wields a more powerful bite: a flamethrower. It has a range of 110 metres and makes light work of clearing out enemy bunkers. The only issue is how much fuel it needs, so each tank has to lug an 1,800-litre trailer behind it.



**IN A BAPTISM OF
FIRE, MANY OF
HOBART'S FUNNIES
DID NOT SEE COMBAT
UNTIL D-DAY**

CHAIN FLAIL

Using fast-spinning chains mounted on a drum, the 'Crab' is able to detonate buried mines without endangering the crew. The flail churns up the ground and sets off an explosion far enough away to prevent damage.

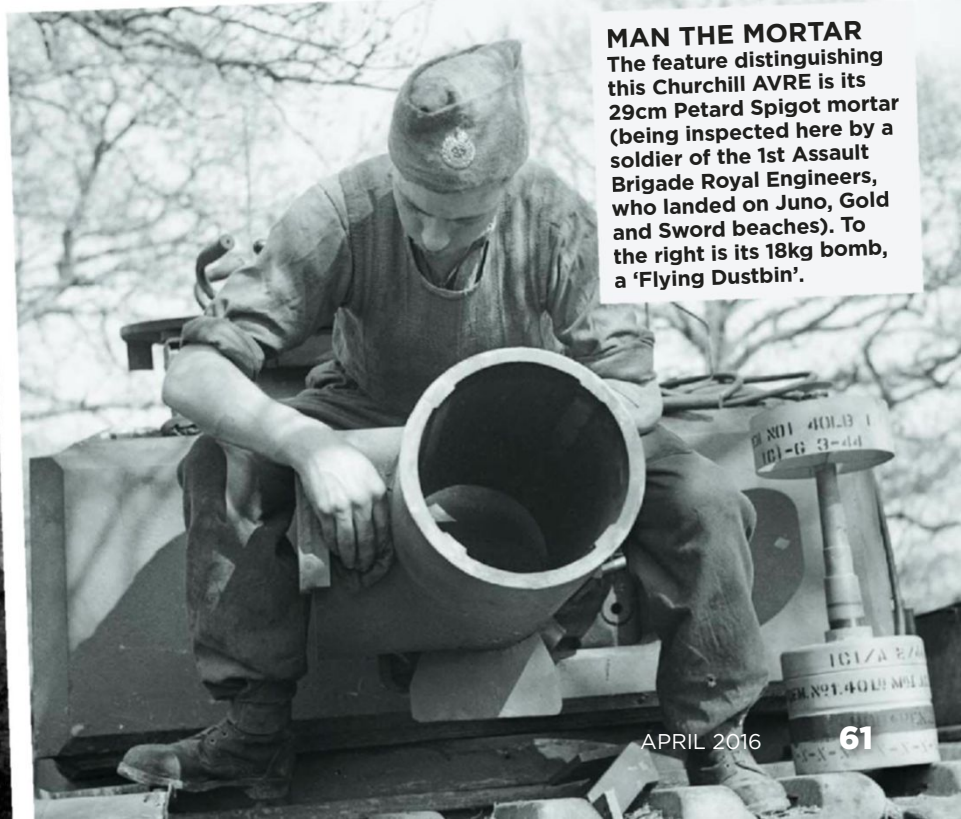


FILLING IN

The idea of a tank carrying a fascine – or bundle of sticks – goes back to World War I. If confronted by a ditch or trench, the heavy fascine is dropped in to fill the space, or to soften the blow when the tank follows it in.

MAN THE MORTAR

The feature distinguishing this Churchill AVRE is its 29cm Petard Spigot mortar (being inspected here by a soldier of the 1st Assault Brigade Royal Engineers, who landed on Juno, Gold and Sword beaches). To the right is its 18kg bomb, a 'Flying Dustbin'.



UNTIL A PORT WAS CAPTURED, THE MULBERRY HARBOURS KEPT THE WAR EFFORT GOING

MULBERRY HARBOURS

With the battle to break out of Normandy raging, two massive artificial harbours (codenamed 'Mulberry') are constructed to ship in reinforcements. The piers and roads roll with the waves, and are protected by lines of sunken, concrete breakwaters. Both are operational only 12 days after D-Day, but the American Mulberry (off Omaha) is soon damaged beyond repair in a storm.

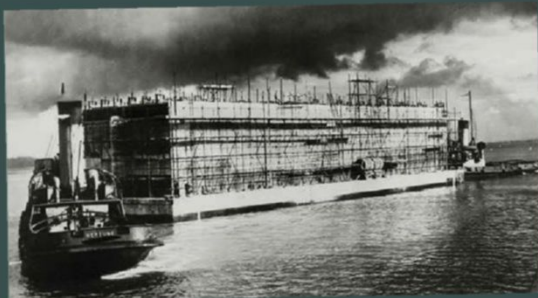
ALAMY XI, GETTY X4

ARTIFICIAL PORT OF CALL
During its ten months of operation, the British Mulberry at Arromanches (Gold beach) unloads 2.5 million men, 4 million tons of supplies and some 500,000 vehicles.



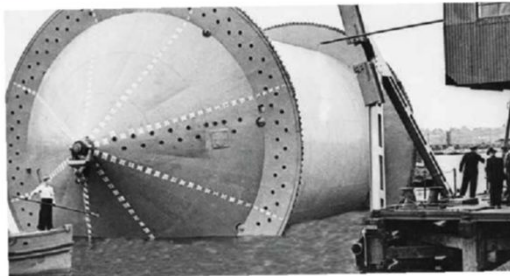
SECURING NORMANDY

After D-Day, it is imperative to maintain the momentum



WHALES, BEETLES AND PHOENIXES

A giant concrete caisson, or 'phoenix', is shunted into position as a Mulberry breakwater. With each weighing thousands of tons, they have to be towed by several tugs at three knots. Once in place, they protect the harbour's miles of roads ('Whales'), pontoons ('Beetles') and pier heads ('Spuds').



PLUTO POWERS THE INVASION

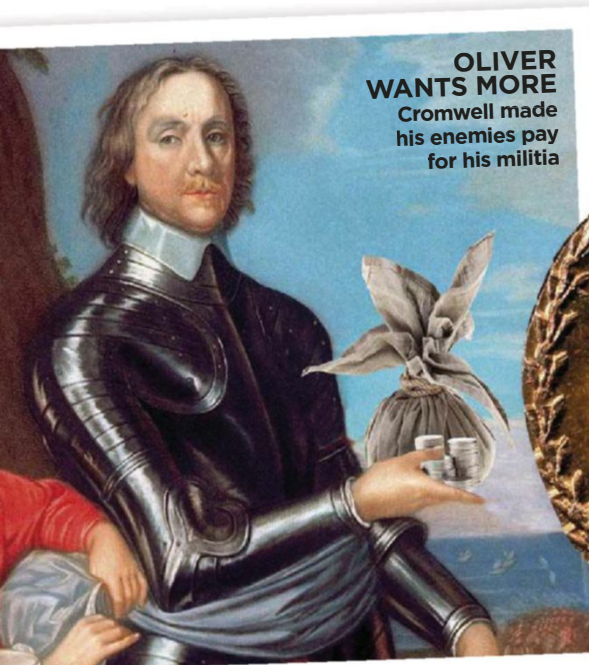
The Normandy landings mean nothing if the military runs out of fuel. Therefore, Operation Pluto (short for 'Pipe-Lines Under The Ocean') runs two oil lines from the Isle of Wight to France's Port-en-Bessin. It unwinds the line using nine-metre-wide 'Conundrum' spools like this.

WHAT A GAS

British engineers assemble pipeline – just a few centimetres wide – in October 1944. At Pluto's height, around 4,000 tons of oil are pumped from Britain to France every day. There is no doubt that D-Day changed the war, signalling an Allied advance that leads to victory. But without the engineering marvels of Mulberry and Pluto, who knows how differently the war would have gone?

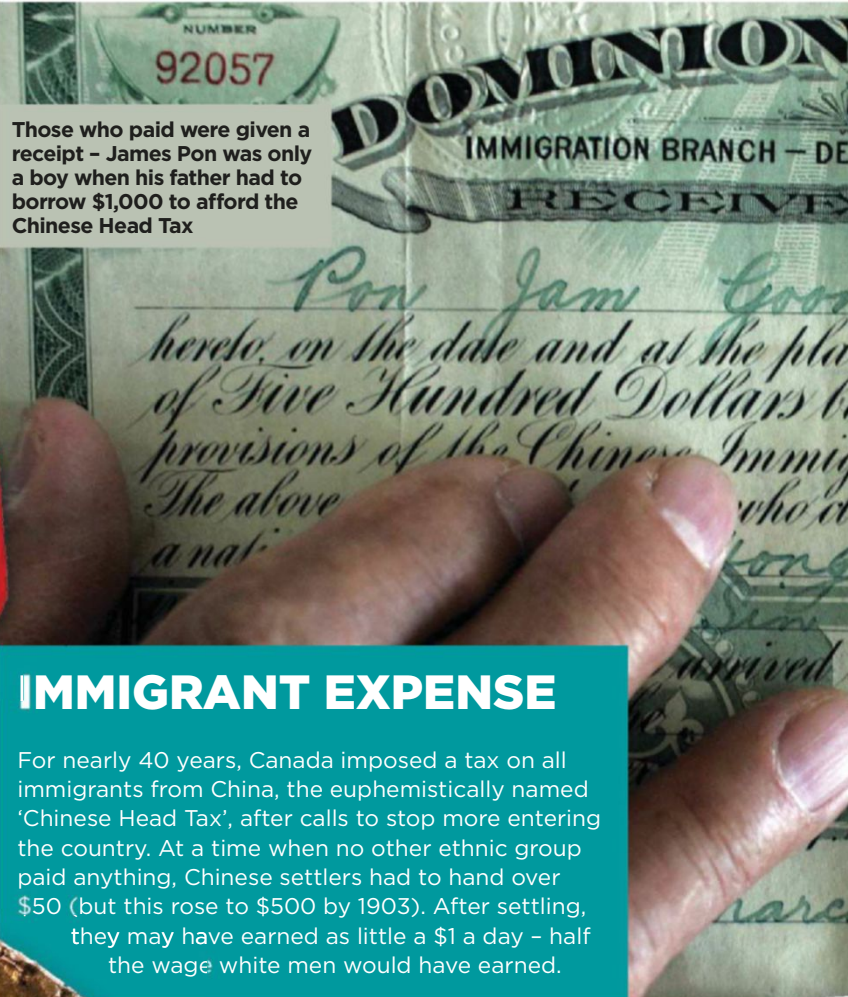
History's oddest taxes

It seems anything and everything has been taxed, including the payer's patience...



**OLIVER
WANTS MORE**
Cromwell made
his enemies pay
for his militia

On one side of the
Russian token is a
rather eerie image of
half a face and the
words: "The beard is a
superfluous burden"



IMMIGRANT EXPENSE

For nearly 40 years, Canada imposed a tax on all immigrants from China, the euphemistically named 'Chinese Head Tax', after calls to stop more entering the country. At a time when no other ethnic group paid anything, Chinese settlers had to hand over \$50 (but this rose to \$500 by 1903). After settling, they may have earned as little a \$1 a day – half the wage white men would have earned.

CLOSE SHAVE

In a bid to westernise Russian society, in 1698, Peter the Great slapped a tax on what he deemed to be an old-fashioned fashion choice: the beard. So men had a choice, shave or stump up (those who opted to retain their face fuzz would be given a token as proof of payment). King Henry VIII levied a similar tax on Tudor England, with the amount depending on the gent's standing in society. Facial hair, therefore, quickly became a symbol of stature.



ROYAL FLUSH

As Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland, Oliver Cromwell brought in some pretty restrictive laws, but one of his most tactical was to tax his enemies. Arguing that it was the responsibility of Royalists to pay for the militia, Cromwell levied a 10 per cent income tariff, the 'decimation tax', on known Royalist households. Not only did it bring in some needed funds, but was a convenient way to keep his enemies in check.

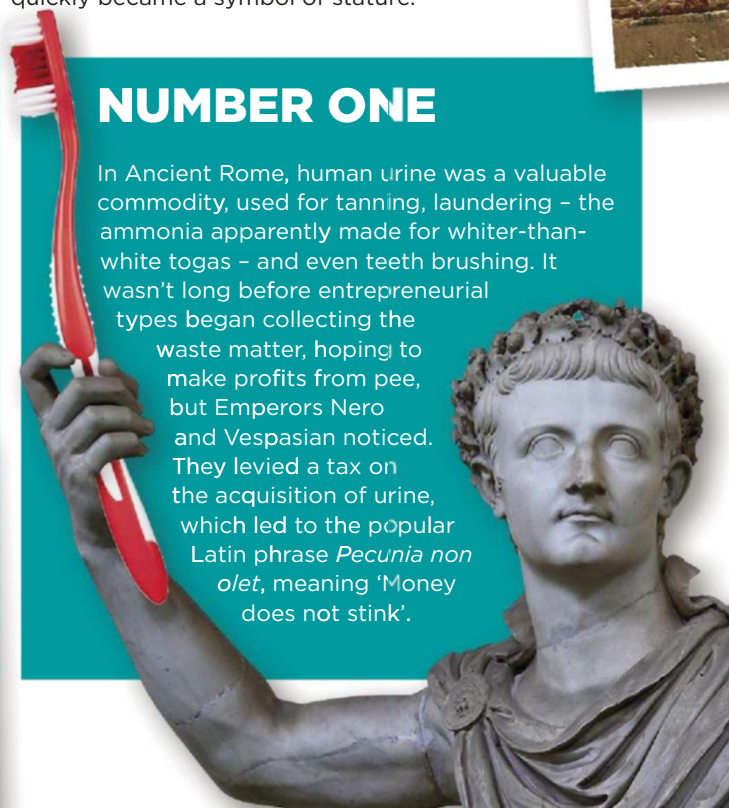
BARE NECESSITIES

Briefly in the 19th century, women of lower caste in Travancore, India, had to pay to cover their breasts in public. This tax, *mulakkaram*, led to an extraordinary act of rebellion. A woman named Nangeli refused to comply, so cut off her own breasts and handed them to a tax collector on a plantain leaf. She died from her wounds, but the tax was abolished.



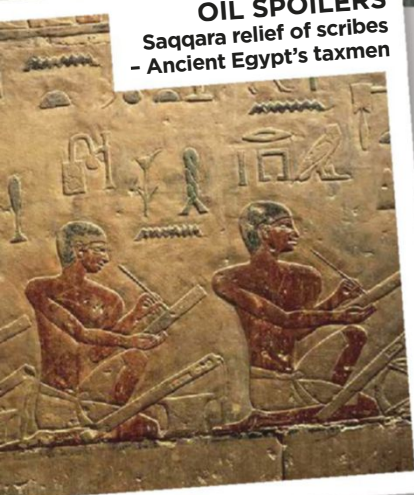
NUMBER ONE

In Ancient Rome, human urine was a valuable commodity, used for tanning, laundering – the ammonia apparently made for whiter-than-white togas – and even teeth brushing. It wasn't long before entrepreneurial types began collecting the waste matter, hoping to make profits from pee, but Emperors Nero and Vespasian noticed. They levied a tax on the acquisition of urine, which led to the popular Latin phrase *Pecunia non olet*, meaning 'Money does not stink'.





OIL SPOILERS
Saqqara relief of scribes
- Ancient Egypt's taxmen



FAT TAX

Ancient Egypt gave us one of the oldest-known taxes, but it's a strangely small-fry levy from the land of gold and jewels: cooking oil. People tried to slip and slide out of it but tax collectors, or scribes, would visit houses to make sure they weren't re-using their fat, or cooking with cheaper alternatives. Not only was the tax paid to the pharaoh, but the oil itself was owned by the ruler. Kerching!

King John imposed heavy and regular scutage payments, leading to the system being restricted by Magna Carta of 1215.

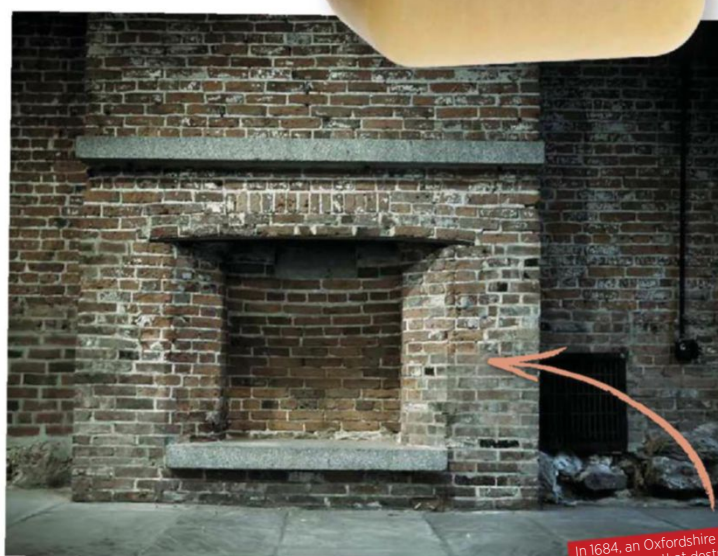


COWARD'S TARIFF

If you were a knight in medieval England, it was a great honour to be called up to war in service of the King, and it was your duty to oblige. But if you didn't really fancy it, you could pay *scutage*, popularly known as cowardice tax. Having begun in 1100, the scaredy-cat scutage evolved into a general tax on knights' land by the 13th century. It morphed further still before finally becoming redundant by the 14th century.

KICKING UP A STINK

The fact that the upper classes tended to think of the lower classes as smelly ingrates might have something to do with a 141-year tax on soap. A heavy tax was placed on the sudsy stuff in 1712, and it was too much for the poorer-paid. Indeed, it was such a burden that soap makers began to make their product off the books for the black market, after which tax collectors took to locking the lids of the soap boiling pans overnight.



In 1684, an Oxfordshire baker caused a fire that destroyed 20 buildings and killed four people after knocking through a wall from her oven to avoid the hearth tax.

HEARTH OF THE HOME

For many, winters in 17th-century England were colder than they had to be. This was thanks to a tax on all fireplaces, introduced in 1662 to pay for Charles II's household. Much like the window tax of 1696, people hastily bricked up their costly chimneys and shivered through the chilly nights to avoid paying.

HOLD ONTO YOUR HATS

We all know that you can't put a price on style but, starting in 1784, the British government tried. Men's hats were taxed depending on how expensive they were. So a simple flat cap, which cost under four shillings, warranted a threepence charge, while the more expensive styles - including the early top hats valued at over 12 shillings - cost the wearer two shillings.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

No one likes to think about taxes for too long but do you know any that could have made the list?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

SMOKING GUNS

The colonial militiamen have the redcoats in their sights, as re-enactors bring the Lexington skirmish to life

HIT AND MISS

Because the majority of **contemporary muskets** didn't have rifled barrels, even the most experienced marksman would expect **most of his shots to miss** the target.

The shot heard round the world

When British troops went to seize arms stockpiled by American colonists at Concord, Massachusetts, they could have had little idea of their raid's revolutionary ramifications. **Julian Humphrys** explains all...

Under cover of darkness, in the early hours of 19 April 1775, a force of British soldiers was on the move. General Thomas Gage, the British Commander in Boston, Massachusetts, had learned the American colonists were stockpiling weapons and ammunition at Concord, about 18 miles away. To nip any potential resistance in the bud, he ordered a surprise raid to seize the lot. Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Smith was chosen to lead



BATTLE CONTEXT

Who

British regulars: 1,500
American colonial militia: 3,500

When

19 April 1775, the start of the
American Revolutionary War

Where

Middlesex County, Massachusetts,
modern-day USA

Why

British bid to seize American
militia supplies

Result

British defeat

BOSTON TEA PARTY

Tea chests are thrown into
Boston's harbour by protesting
colonists in December 1773



AMERICA IN 1775

The colonists had been pushed to breaking point...

Britain's 13 American colonies ran along the east coast from Massachusetts in the north to Georgia in the south. Each was administered by a royal governor, his council and an elected colonial assembly.

After defeating the French in North America in the early 1760s, Britain wanted to increase taxes in America and make the colonies pay for their own defence. Using the slogan 'No taxation without representation', the colonists argued that only their own assemblies, and not the British parliament, had a right to levy taxes. Tensions rose.

December 1773 saw the colonists dump a cargo of British tea into the harbour, in protest of Britain's attempt to tax imports – the Boston Tea Party. The government responded by closing the port of Boston, dissolving the colonial assembly and placing Massachusetts under military rule.

Believing both their liberty and economic prosperity to be under threat, the colonists took action. They set up their own continental assembly, took over their local militias and started stockpiling military supplies.

a flying column of British redcoats into the small town.

Smith chose his men well. He selected the elite grenadiers (the toughest) and light infantry (the swiftest) from a number of regiments, building a force of about 700. To avoid a lengthy roundabout march out of Boston, Smith's men were ferried across the Charles River in barges and, after wading ashore through waist-deep water, the soggy troops began their march on Concord at about 2am.

Gage and Smith had hoped for secrecy and surprise, but they

weren't to get their way. As the redcoats approached, the ominous sound of church bells rang through the night; the people of Massachusetts knew something was up.

Dr Joseph Warren, a Boston resident and a key opponent of the King's rule, had been informed by a sympathiser within the British command (possibly Margaret, Gage's American-born wife) that a raid was going to take place. Warren sent two riders, tanner William Dawes and silversmith Paul Revere, to spread



BATTLEFIELD LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, 1775

the word. To make doubly sure the message got through, two lanterns were lit in the tower of Boston's Old North Church – a pre-arranged signal meaning the British were to cross the Charles River by boat.

Dawes and Revere initially

took different routes to Lexington, a few miles east of Concord, where two key revolutionary leaders, Samuel Adams and John Hancock, were staying. Concerned that the radicals might, in fact, be the true targets of the British raid, Revere and Dawes persuaded the two to flee. The messengers then set off for Concord, meeting a third rider, Samuel Prescott, on the way.

There is, incidentally, no evidence to support the myth that Revere rode about shouting “The British are coming” (see *Revered American*, below). Indeed, if he had, it would be confusing, as colonial Americans at that time considered themselves British. In the event, only Prescott made it to Concord. Revere was captured by the British, while Dawes was thrown from his horse and had to walk to Lexington.

But the riders had done their job. Other messengers were now spreading the word and militiamen from all over the county were hurriedly mustering and heading to intercept the redcoats. By the time Britain's Lieutenant Colonel Smith and his men had reached Menotomy (now Arlington), it was clear that the enemy had stirred up a hornet's nest, and Concord was still more than ten miles away.

Before heading on, Smith sent a message back to Gage calling for

reinforcements. Gage duly ordered Lord Percy to take his brigade (about 800 men) to help the redcoats on the road to Concord but, thanks to a misunderstanding, there was a four-hour delay before Percy set off.

Meanwhile, Smith's column was cautiously approaching the town of Lexington. Learning that there might be opposition on the road ahead, Smith ordered

Major John Pitcairn of the Royal Marines to take the light infantry into the town.

BATTLE LINES

The Sun was just beginning to rise as Pitcairn's men entered the little town. There, drawn up on the green, were about 77 American militiamen, under the command of Captain John Parker. A veteran of the French and Indian Wars, Parker was dying of consumption and, in fact, had only five months to live.

Initially neither side wanted to fight. Parker's tiny force was heavily outnumbered and, knowing that most of the supplies at Concord had by now been hidden, he wasn't prepared to sacrifice his men for no purpose. So he positioned his men carefully, in plain sight to make a point, but not actively seeking confrontation by blocking the road. In Parker's eyes, if there was going to be any fighting, the British would have to start it.

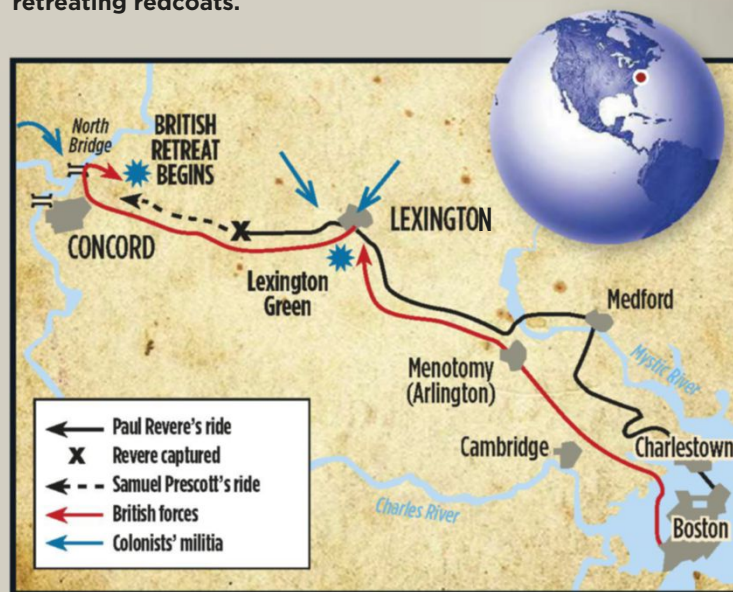
Pitcairn also wanted to avoid bloodshed. He called on Parker's militia to disperse but, before they could, a shot rang out. Nobody knows who fired that fateful shot

40

The distance, in miles, marched in under a day by some of the British units

LAY OF THE LAND

Middlesex County was a well-populated part of British North America. The numerous villages and farm buildings along the Concord-to-Boston road provided excellent cover for the colonists as they fired at the retreating redcoats.



WEAPONS

Redcoats and colonists alike were equipped with the same types of weapon

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Cartridge boxes and bayonets were carried on woven linen shoulder slings.

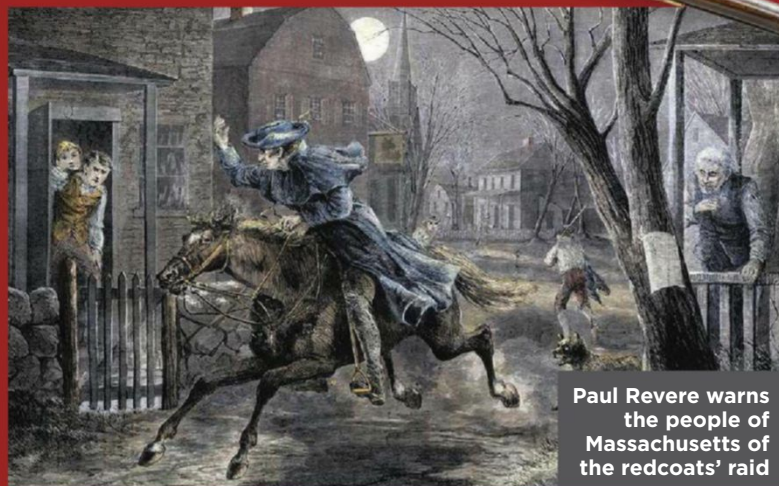


REVERED AMERICAN

Thanks to Henry Longfellow's poem of 1861, *Paul Revere's Ride*, the messenger is best known for the part he played in warning Lexington of the impending arrival of the British in 1775. But there was much more to the extraordinary man's life...

A Boston silversmith of partly French descent, Revere dabbled in dentistry and was also an engraver, printing the new country's first paper money. An active opponent of British rule, he took part in the Boston Tea Party (see *America in 1775*, page 67).

His military career was spectacularly unsuccessful. He was court-martialled (but acquitted) for his part in a disastrous expedition against the British in what is now Maine. After the war, he opened America's first copper-rolling mill and eventually died, aged 83, in 1818. Twice married, he had fathered 16 children.



Paul Revere warns the people of Massachusetts of the redcoats' raid

AMERICA'S FINEST

The anatomy of a
militiaman – the
colonists' top fighters

AS YOU ARE

Whereas the British
regulars wore
distinctive red uniforms,
the colonial militiamen
turned up to battle in
their everyday attire.

CARTRIDGE BOX

This leather box contains
gunpowder rolled up in
paper cartridges. Before
firing, a soldier had to
bite one of these open
and pour the powder
down the barrel.

WATER SUPPLY

All soldiers needed
plenty of water,
especially as biting
open the gunpowder
cartridges could give
them a raging thirst.

COLD STEEL

A British Infantry
sword belonging to
the 59th regiment,
which provided troops for
the Concord raid.

TAKE AIM

A Short Land Pattern
musket carried by a
light infantryman of the
British 5th Regiment of
Foot, which also took
part in the raid.

ON THE OTHER FOOT

Many of the fighters
wore 'straights' which
could be worn on either
foot and swapped
round to reduce wear.

THE FIGHTERS

In 1775, there were about 7,000 red-coated British infantry in America, all professional soldiers. About 4,000 were in Massachusetts itself. Many, however, had seen no action. By contrast, the colonists' militiamen weren't career soldiers. They were farmers or tradesmen who could be called on to protect their homes and settlements, and they had likely seen action – originally against Native Americans and the French. They had no uniform, often had only rudimentary training and would have carried a variety of firearms.

America's best soldiers were the 'minute men', hand-picked militiamen on hand to turn out at short notice. They were usually young, mobile and expert at skirmishing. Although the militia fought well at Lexington, Concord and Boston, the rebels came to believe that a European-style army, not an irregular force, was needed to defeat the British. In June 1775, George Washington was given command of that army.

NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

Whenever a musket was
fired, it gave off clouds
of smoke, making it
impossible for the shooter
to stay hidden for long.



COLOUR MATCH

Individual British
regiments were
distinguished by the colours
of their collars,
lapels and cuffs.

GUNS BLAZING

Redcoat re-enactors
fire on the militiamen at
the Battle of Lexington

“Before the militia
could disperse, a
shot rang out.
Nobody knows
who fired that
fateful shot...”

BATTLEFIELD LEXINGTON AND CONCORD, 1775

but, in the ensuing confusion, the British fired a volley and charged with fixed bayonets.

When the smoke cleared, eight militiamen lay dead on the green and a further ten had been wounded. One redcoat had been hurt. Soon after, Smith rode into Lexington. He was horrified to learn what had happened. Using a drummer to recall Pitcairn's scattered troops, who were busy chasing the surviving militiamen, he reformed his column and pushed on to Concord. They arrived at about 7am.

BACK UP

The colonists had, perhaps, 300 militiamen in Concord but, rather than fight there, they pulled back across a bridge to the north of the town where they waited for their reinforcements. The redcoats set about searching the town for the weapons and ammunition they had come to confiscate, unaware that much had already been spirited away. They did, however, find three large cannons, which they rendered unusable by destroying their trunnions (axles), as well as hoards of flour and musket balls, which they dumped in the town pond. Other supplies and pieces of equipment were set alight. But this was to have unexpected consequences.

On seeing the billowing smoke, the colonial militia on the other side of the river assumed that the British had set fire to the town and,

now about 500 strong, they began to advance towards the bridge that led back into Concord.

The 100 light infantrymen guarding the bridge fired one volley at the militiamen. The Americans replied with a volley of their own – this took the lives of the first British soldiers to fall that day and, after the great poet

Ralph Waldo Emerson coined the phrase, became known as the “shot heard round the world”.

Outgunned, the Brits fell back. Smith's men had been searching Concord for four hours, but now it was time to retreat. Some 2,000 militiamen were in the area, with more arriving every minute. The British formed up and set off on the return to Boston. It was then that their nightmare began.

At first, the militiamen simply shadowed the British, but they now had sufficient numbers to inflict real damage. They began sniping at the redcoats from behind stone walls, houses, sheds, trees and bushes. In their scarlet coats, as opposed to the dull red of the ordinary soldiers, Smith's officers made distinctive targets. With his men being picked off, Smith began to lose control. Many of his troops cast away their equipment to retreat more quickly as they ran the gauntlet of colonial fire. By the time it reached Lexington, the column was near to total collapse.

Had it not been for Lord Percy who was waiting

247

The number of British soldiers who were killed or wounded in the skirmish

HASTY RETREAT The beleaguered Brits are evacuated by boat back to Boston



“The British set off to Boston. It was then that their nightmare began”

for them at Lexington with his brigade of redcoats and a couple of cannons, Smith's men might not have made it back to Boston at all. Despite being short of ammunition, Percy covered the rest of the retreat with some skill, sending groups of men into the fields on each side of the Boston road to keep the colonists as far away as possible and using his two cannons whenever he could.

Even so, the militiamen continued to harass the British. They were fired upon almost all the way back to the Charles River where, to the relief of the exhausted redcoats, the Royal Navy was waiting to ferry them to safety. The British had lost 73 killed, 174

wounded and 26 missing on the retreat. American casualties were about 90.

MAJOR DISASTER

Militarily, Lexington and Concord had been a minor defeat for the British, but it had been a major disaster politically. Smith's raid had caused the very fighting it was intended to prevent and the British army had caused bloodshed on American soil. What's more, the casualties suffered from an often-unseen enemy, together with the belief that one of their comrades had been scalped, would lead them to commit a number of atrocities against the locals – a fact widely reported by their enemies. All this helped turn resentment into outright rebellion. And when it came to fighting, the colonists had proved that they could stand up to the redcoats, a fact not lost on Lord Percy: “Whoever looks upon them as an irregular mob will find himself much mistaken.”

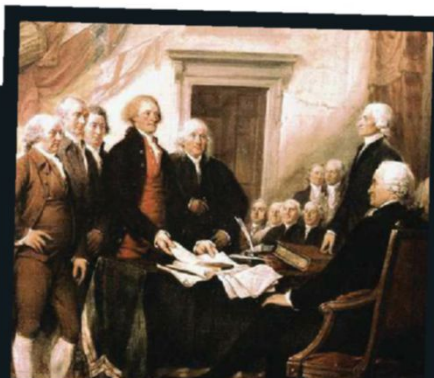
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The American Revolutionary War really kicked off

Encouraged by their initial success, the American rebels surrounded Boston, where their army started to gain many new recruits. Despite winning a costly victory at Bunker Hill in June, the British were forced to abandon Boston the following March, although they balanced this with the capture New York by the end of the year.

In July 1776, representatives of the 13 American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. The French joined the war in 1777, as allies of the Americans – they were later joined by both the Spanish and Dutch.

When the British surrendered at Yorktown



INDEPENDENCE DAY The Founding Fathers of America declare the nation's Independence

in 1781, it was, effectively, the end of the fighting. In 1783, Britain formally recognised American Independence.

GET HOOKED

Find out more about the battle and those involved

BOOKS

Well-illustrated and furnished with clear, coloured maps, Brendan Morrissey's *Boston 1775: the shot heard around the world* (1995) contains plenty of information on the opposing forces, an excellent hour-by-hour account of the fighting on 19 April, as well as lots on what happened afterwards.

The 2016 **CULTURE GUIDE**

2016 is set to be a great year for historical anniversaries and there really is no better time to explore some of Britain's best heritage sites, exhibitions and festivals. Head out and support Britain's heritage this year.



The 2016 CULTURE GUIDE



Kynren

On 2nd July 2016, Eleven Arches will premiere “Kynren – An Epic Tale of England” – a live-action night show of dazzling proportions. Set against the magnificent backdrop of Auckland Castle, home to the Bishops of Durham for nearly 900 years, the venue sits astride the path of Dere Street, the Roman road from York to Scotland. On a 7.5-acre open-air stage with lake, in a show that includes mass choreography, horses, ships, a steam train, carriages, pyrotechnics and spectacular lighting and water effects, 1,000 cast and crew will bring the story of the nation to life in a grand spectacle of great scale. Audiences of up to 8,000 a night will be transported in a storytelling journey through 2,000 years of British history. Starting with early myth and religion, through Roman, Viking and Norman invaders, to the

great kings and queens of Tudor, Elizabethan and Victorian times, the show also encompasses the high culture of Shakespeare and the industrial genius of George Stephenson, before finishing with the great sacrifice of two World Wars. The production includes over 1,800 costumes, armies of actors professionally trained in stage combat, and 34 of the finest show horses, as well as chariots, carriages and a coronation coach. The visually sumptuous theatrical experience is accompanied in surround-sound by an evocative original music score created by one of the music and film world's rising stars. Only the second of its kind in the world and unique to the UK, the Kynren night show is already tipped as the must-see attraction for 2016. There will be fourteen shows in Bishop Auckland, County Durham running from July – September with tickets £25-55.

Contact details

web: www.kynren.co.uk
email: enquiries@kynren.co.uk

KYNREN⁺
AN EPIC TALE OF ENGLAND

National Civil War Centre



It is 370 years since the fall of Newark during the British Civil Wars and to mark the anniversary, two spectacular weekends are planned. Pikes and Plunder: Annual Civil War Festival on 1st – 2nd May 2016 will see scores of colourful re-enactors descend on the National Civil War Centre, Friary Gardens and Newark Castle. Both days will feature living history, musket drills and parades. Fantastic and colourful – make sure you make a date to join us! Then on 8th May, re-enactors will return to commemorate the very day when Newark surrendered after a bitter six-month siege. Drills, displays and wreath laying will make it a day-long event to remember.

Contact details

web: www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com
email: civilwarinfo@nsdc.info

Segedunum Roman Fort



Segedunum Roman Fort is at the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall, the 73-mile frontier system built in AD 122 on the order of the Emperor Hadrian along the most northern edge of the Roman Empire.

Nestled on the banks of the River Tyne in North Tyneside where the old Swan Hunter shipyards were, Segedunum is the most-excavated fort along the Wall. With surviving foundations of several buildings and part of the Wall itself, there is also a large interactive museum. The 35-metre-high viewing tower provides outstanding views across this World Heritage Site.

Contact details

web: www.segedunumromanfort.org.uk
email: info@segedunumromanfort.org.uk



English Heritage Holiday Cottages

At English Heritage, we want to offer you the most exciting and engaging ways to explore England's past. Whether you find inspiration in the evocative settings, little-known details or colourful characters of history, staying at one of our sites will make for an unforgettable experience. As other visitors leave, you can discover a new side as you explore all by yourself. Soak up the unique atmosphere of the sun setting on hundreds of years of history and, come morning, see it light up some of the most iconic sights in the country.

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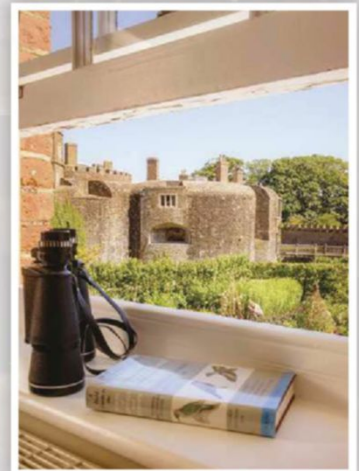
over Falmouth, the inspiration for the *Tale of Little Pig Robinson*, English Heritage holiday cottages put you at the heart of key moments in history.

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ENGLISH
HERITAGE



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The 2016 CULTURE GUIDE



Contact details

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English Heritage

Telling the story of England's magnificent history, English Heritage cares for over 400 historic places across England, including Stonehenge, Dover Castle, Hadrian's Wall, Tintagel Castle and many more.

This year the charity is marking the 950th anniversary of the Norman Conquest with a year of exciting events and activities at many historic Norman sites across the country, including the Battle of Hastings battlefield itself. As well as a new exhibition, for the first time visitors will be able to stand on the roof of the Great Gatehouse of Battle Abbey – getting a whole new perspective on the most famous battle in English history.

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something to see and do. From clambering over Roman ruins to discovering secret wartime tunnels, there are lots of amazing discoveries at every turn and a chance to experience history first hand. When you become a member you'll also receive free or reduced-price entry to events, free entry for up to six children (under 19 and within the family group), a free handbook and *Members' Magazine* four times a year.

English Heritage is offering an exclusive 25% off new annual memberships until 1st May 2016. To receive your offer, call quoting code BBHIST25 or visit the website and enter the code at the checkout.



ENGLISH
HERITAGE



Contact details

web: www.history.org.uk/go/HA
tel: 0300 100 0223

Historical Association

If you don't already have membership of the Historical Association (HA) then it's probably time to give it some thought. The association offers so much – whether it's through expanding your knowledge, bringing you together with other enthusiasts or helping you with research, the HA community is here for you. All you need is a love of history.

One of the HA's strongest assets is its thriving branch network. The HA calls on the support of over 300 volunteers who run its 50 local branches and put together a vibrant and distinctive programme of historical walks, talks and visits. Members gain access to all these events as part of their membership alongside annual conferences, tours and national events.

In terms of subject knowledge, the HA provides a treasure trove

of resources, including thought-provoking articles and pamphlets, as well as podcasts that can be accessed via a truly fabulous podcast section on their website. These podcasts are easy to download and offer bite-size audio clips of 15-20 minutes by leading historians.

The Historian is the flagship journal of the HA, and each quarterly issue is themed with in-depth articles from experts in their field. Recent editions have honed in on historical anniversaries including the Battles of Agincourt and Waterloo, as well as more general topics of interest such as women in history.

The Historical Association is the most significant organisation for all things historical, providing members with the best possible resources and support. Why not get involved?



Historic Royal Palaces

Membership to Historic Royal Palaces is a brilliant way to visit all six historic royal palaces, and it's fantastic value. Your membership would cover entry into the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, the Banqueting House, Kensington Palace, Kew Palace and Hillsborough Castle. All of which are packed full of great days out and opportunities for families to really spend quality time together.

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There are so many exciting things happening this year. One that we're particularly excited about is the

unveiling of the Magic Garden at Hampton Court Palace, a spectacular new adventure-play garden inspired by the mystery of Tudor England and stories of the palace.

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Historic Royal Palaces is the independent charity that looks after all six palaces. We receive no funding from the Government or the Crown, so we depend on the support of our visitors, members, donors, volunteers and sponsors.

Join as a member today, prices start from £48.

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tel: 020 3166 6327



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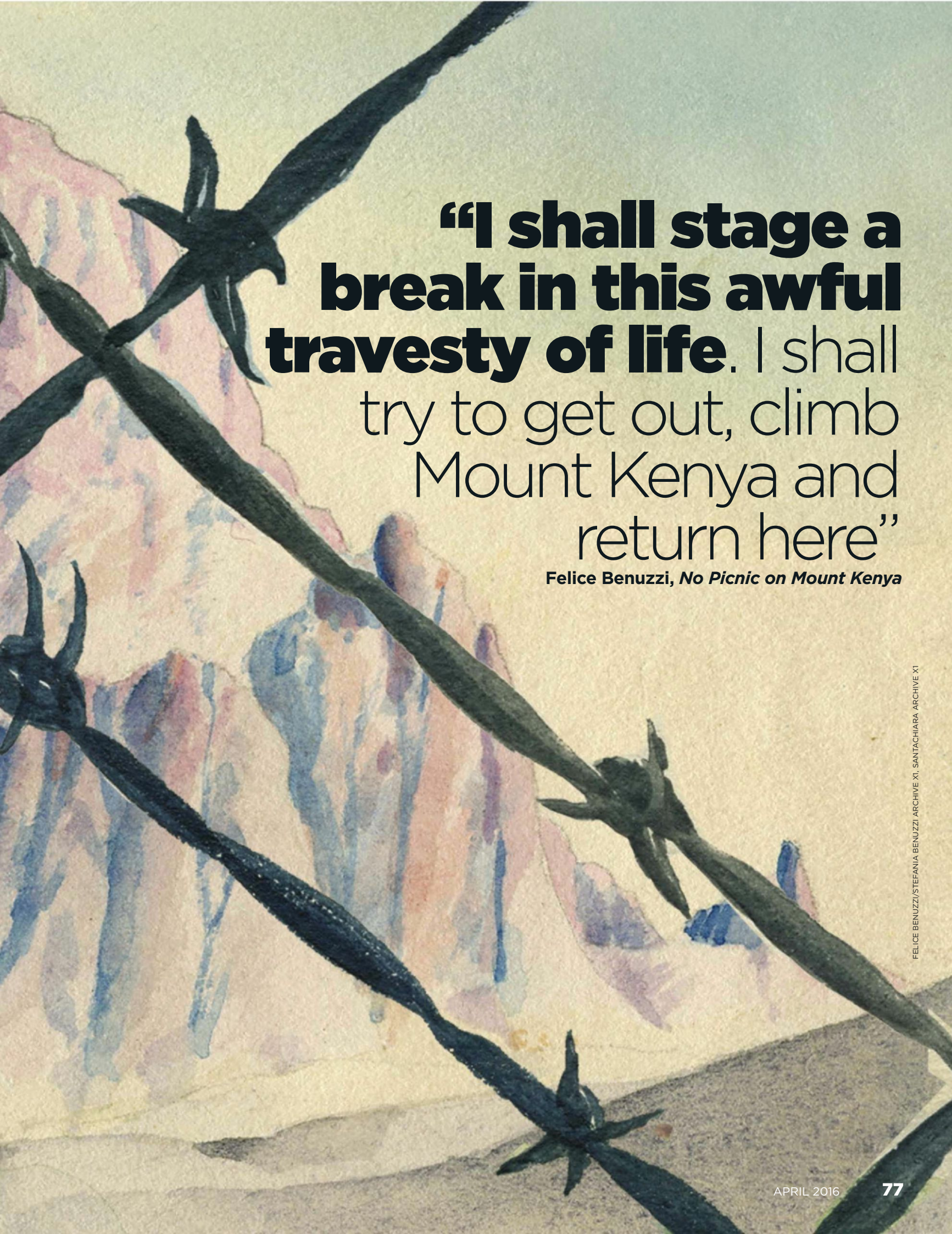
GREAT ADVENTURES ESCAPE TO MOUNT KENYA

MUSING ON A CHALLENGE

While held in a prison camp deep in the wilds of Africa, Italian POW Felice Benuzzi painted his inspirational view of Mount Kenya, and planned an illicit ascent of its peak

ESCAPE TO MOUNT KENYA

Pat Kinsella retells the escapade of three Italian POWs, who staged an outrageous breakout from a World War II prison camp – to climb a mountain...



**“I shall stage a
break in this awful
travesty of life.** I shall
try to get out, climb
Mount Kenya and
return here”

Felice Benuzzi, *No Picnic on Mount Kenya*



GREAT ADVENTURES ESCAPE TO MOUNT KENYA

When amateur mountaineer Felice Benuzzi first laid eyes on Mount Kenya, on 13 May 1942, he was completely smitten.

Entranced. Instantly possessed with the idea of climbing it. The fact that he was in prison, with no release date in sight, only heightened the Italian alpinist's inherent urge to inhale the East African mountain air.

Benuzzi knew a long-term escape effort from his prisoner-of-war camp was bound to end with failure, additional punishment, and possibly a bullet. But a bid for temporary freedom – just enough liberty to summit Africa's second-highest peak – perhaps that might be possible. The last place his British captors would think to look for an absconder, he reasoned, was at the top of a mountain.

All he had to do was magic up some mountaineering equipment, accumulate two weeks' rations, fashion sufficient clothing from his equatorial allowance to survive in sub-zero temperatures, get through a locked gate and past armed guards, elude capture in a country where skinny white men in civvies invariably had a price on their head, avoid being chomped or trampled by African wildlife, pick a route up a 5,000-metre mountain with no map, accomplish a feat requiring immense physical endurance with a body mangled by malnutrition, and then break back into prison. What could go wrong?

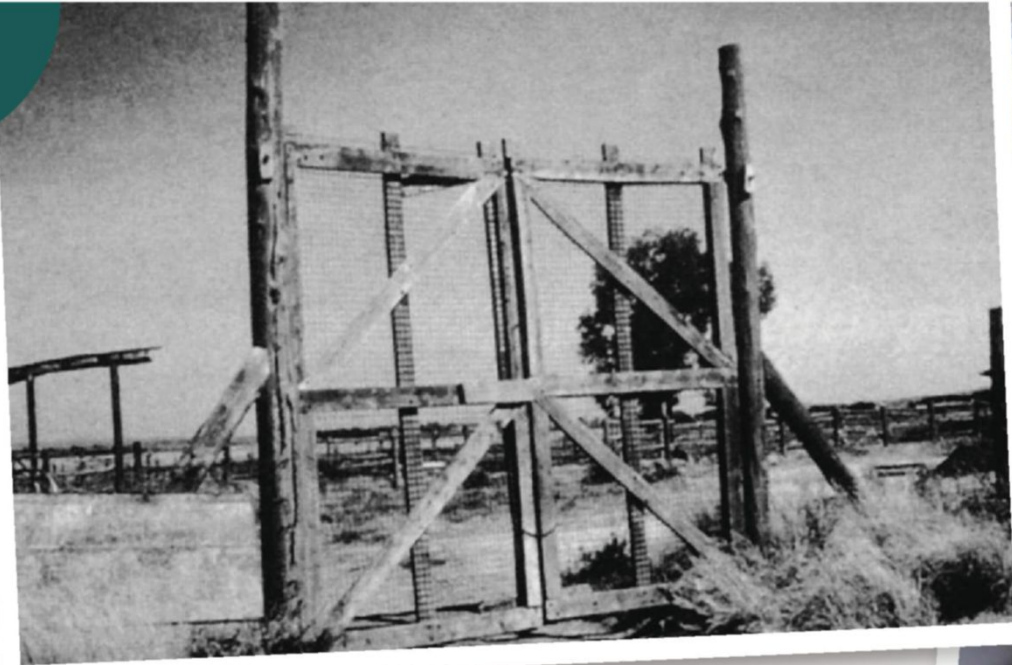
THE ITALIAN JOB

Born in Vienna in 1910, Benuzzi grew up in Trieste, north-east Italy, and cut his climbing teeth in the Julian Alps and Dolomites. After studying law, he joined the Italian Colonial Service and spent the early part of WWII in Italian-occupied Abyssinia (now Ethiopia). He was captured when the Allies liberated the country in 1941 and, by mid-1942, he'd been transferred to POW Camp #354, at the foot of Mount Kenya.

The mountain instantly exerted a magnetic pull on the Italian. Afflicted by the malaise of a caged man, Benuzzi became obsessed with thoughts of scaling the imposing peak. But he needed a climbing partner, and when he confided in a fellow inmate with mountain experience, the man derided the notion.

Undeterred, Benuzzi recruited a prisoner called Mario, who agreed to join the escape attempt even if he wasn't included in the summit push. The pair began to buy, beg, borrow and steal items that could be turned into climbing equipment. Two hammers were transformed into ice axes by a POW who'd been a blacksmith in peacetime. And, with sweet irony, the spikes on the crampons that the men would use on their fleeting bid for freedom came from barbed wire designed to keep them imprisoned.

In July 1943, Benuzzi met his climbing partner. Giovanni 'Giuan' Balletto was a doctor from Genoa – a serious and contemplative



THE MAIN PLAYERS



FELICE BENUZZI

Architect of the audacious plan to climb Mount Kenya and leader of the escape party. In the 1930s, Benuzzi represented Italy at international level as a swimmer. After the war he became a diplomat and worked at the UN. He died in 1988.

DR GIOVANNI 'GIUAN' BALLETTTO

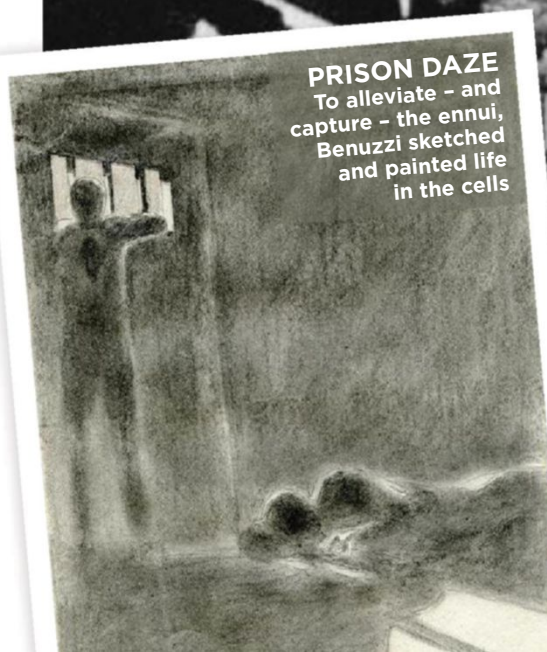
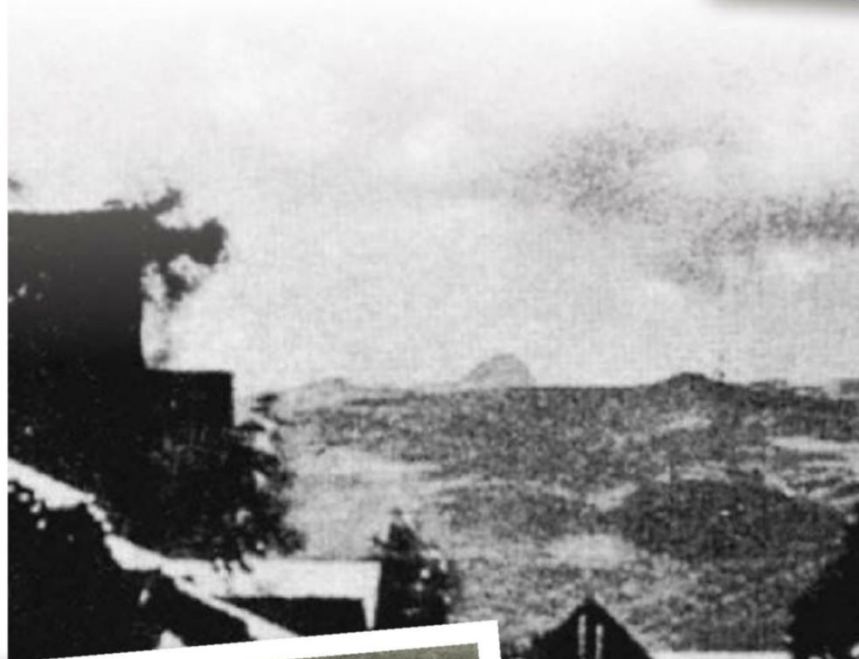
According to anecdotal reports, Giuan remained in East Africa after the war, setting up a clinic in Himo, below Kilimanjaro, and continuing to climb. He suffered from depression and took his own life, aged 66.

VINCENZO 'ENZO' BARSOTTI

A last-minute addition to the team, Enzo was in poor health. He never intended to attempt the summit, but kept camp and helped transport food and gear. Nothing is known of his post-war antics.

STEP ONE

L-R: With a duplicated key, the trio escaped through this gate into the prison's vegetable garden, and beyond; an aerial shot of Mount Kenya; the best image of the south side of the mountain that the climbers had come from a tin of corned beef; they would tangle with wild animals, including leopards, on their escapade; the British press were largely impressed with the escapees' adventure



PRISON DAZE
To alleviate – and capture – the ennui, Benuzzi sketched and painted life in the cells



ESCAPED ITALIAN PRISONERS FLED TO MOUNT KENYA!

And Hoisted A Flag On Pt. Lenana

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT]

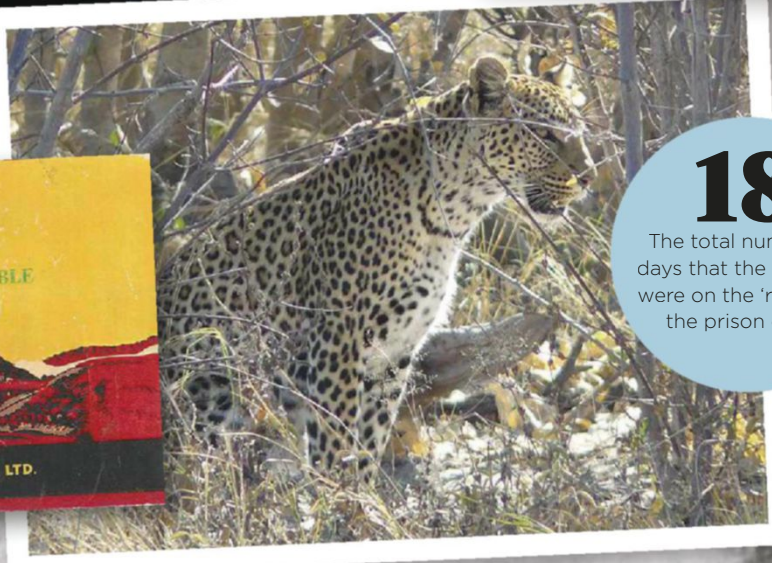
LAST week, after a lapse of five years, Italian troops again conquered a party of six people from Nairobi spent eight days on Mount Kenya, proceeding by the Embu route and Thompson's Lakes Camp to the top hut. (It is worth noting to those who intend to climb by this route that under no circumstances will the porters carry on a Sunday.) The weather was ideal during the whole safari. On reaching Thompson's Lakes Camp, it was noted with interest and much speculation that a flag was flying on the top of Point Lenana (14,000 ft.). With the aid of binoculars, the party could see that the colours were red white and green. It was decided that as soon as possible, an investigation should be made. The top hut was reached the following day about midday and after a quick lunch Major Hayward, Mr Alan Ke, and Mrs. Firmus set out to climb Point Thompson by way of the Diamond Glacier.

Both pairs made excellent progress and reached the top of Nelion at 1 p.m. when there was great jubilation, whistling and shouting, both on the part of the two people left below and the party who had actually made the climb.

From then on the climbing party disappeared from sight, and it was assumed they were attacking Ratan which is the highest point on Mt. Kenya, being 40 feet higher than Nelion.

Difficult Ascent

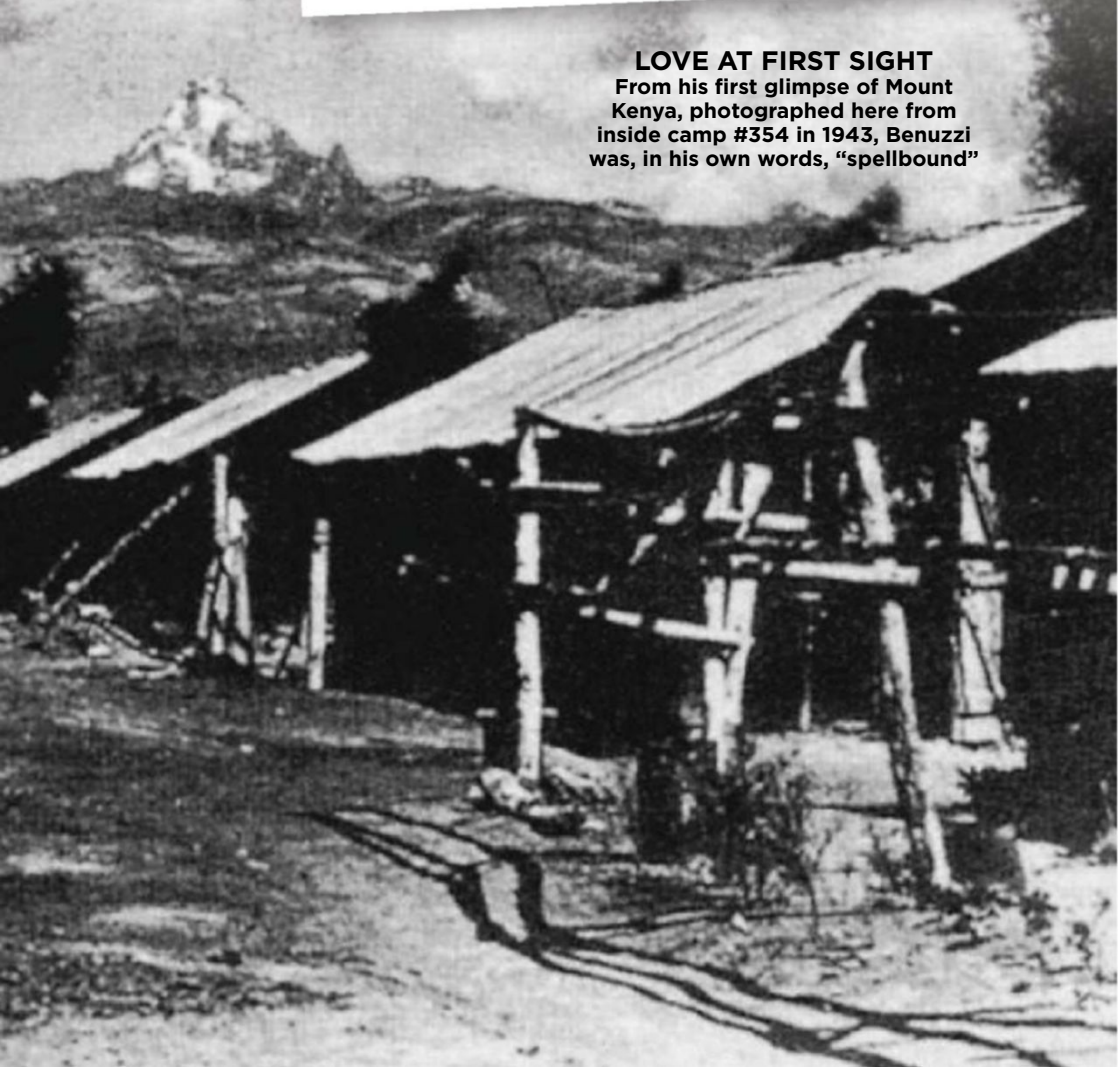
The climb from Nelion to Italian presents some difficulty, as first there is a drop of about 200 feet down the other side of Nelion to the Diamond Glacier. Secondly, for some years past, the Diamond Glacier has been shrinking, as are all the glaciers on the Kenya range, and has proved practically unascendable to parties who have successfully climbed Nelion. The angle of the glacier has

18

The total number of days that the climbers were on the 'run' from the prison camp

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT
From his first glimpse of Mount Kenya, photographed here from inside camp #354 in 1943, Benuzzi was, in his own words, "spellbound"



character, who nevertheless thought it a good idea to break out of and then back into a military prison, simply to climb a peak.

The team complete, preparations were stepped up a notch. They hoarded food, traded cigarettes for clothes, constructed stoves, bought torches, and sewed up a tent, backpacks and an Italian flag to be left at the summit. They hunted for scraps of information about the mountain. A photo of Mount Kenya's eastern peaks turned up in a book, while their most-detailed drawing of the south face came from a tin of corned beef.

The escape date was decided: 24 January 1943. But, on New Year's Day, disaster struck. Without notice, Mario was transferred to another camp. They had three weeks to recruit a third man. Unsurprisingly, few people were keen to join such a risky endeavour. As a last resort, Giuà invited a friend - Vincenzo 'Enzo' Barsotti - whose lack of fitness was compensated by a bottomless reserve of humour and enthusiasm.

ESCAPE TO ADVENTURE

As conditions outside were brutally unforgiving, security in East African POW camps was relatively low. They could, apparently, have bribed their way past the local sentries, but this they considered a 'low' method of escape.

Instead, Benuzzi made an imprint of a key to the gate leading to a vegetable garden outside the main prison, where certain prisoners, including Giuà, were allowed to grow food. Their equipment was already stashed here and, on the allotted day, the three men made their move (see 1 on map on page 81). They passed through the gate and pretended to work in the gardens until the sentries weren't looking, whereupon they hid. While waiting for nightfall, Giuà discovered Enzo was suffering from a fever, probably malaria, but he refused to remain behind.

Under cloak of darkness, the trio crept beyond the outer limits of the prison. They crossed the equator, then a railway track, narrowly avoided a collision with a car and laid low for the day just beyond the road.

Progress was slow the following night, as they entered the tropical forest at the foothills of the mountain (2). Nervously skirting a sawmill, they



GREAT ADVENTURES ESCAPE TO MOUNT KENYA

evaded capture and found the Nanyuki River. Eventually, they felt safe enough to light a fire, heat some food and begin to travel by day, following the river up through the forest.

Beyond the area where detection by humans was an ever-present danger, the trio entered an environment patrolled instead by wild animals (3). On the fourth night, the camp was encircled and rushed by a large beast, which Benuzzi believes was a leopard. By waving burning logs and creating a din they scared it off, but the next day they surprised a rhino and later a bull elephant burst into their camp (4).

On day five, the party began following a tributary of the Nanyuki, hoping it would lead them out of the dense forest faster. Enzo remained ill and, by Friday 29 January, Giuà also had a fever (5). Rations were already low, but by Saturday night they'd attained enough altitude that Camp #354 could clearly be seen way below. To celebrate, they lit a big fire, hoping it would be visible from the prison (7).

With altitude comes cold, though, and nights became long and agonising as the trembling trio huddled in their tiny tent. Each morning the water in their drinking bottles was frozen solid. A week into the escapade, the mountaintop still seemed far distant and Benuzzi was dismayed to discover he was suffering from mountain sickness. On Monday 1 February, however, the summit at last loomed into view (8).

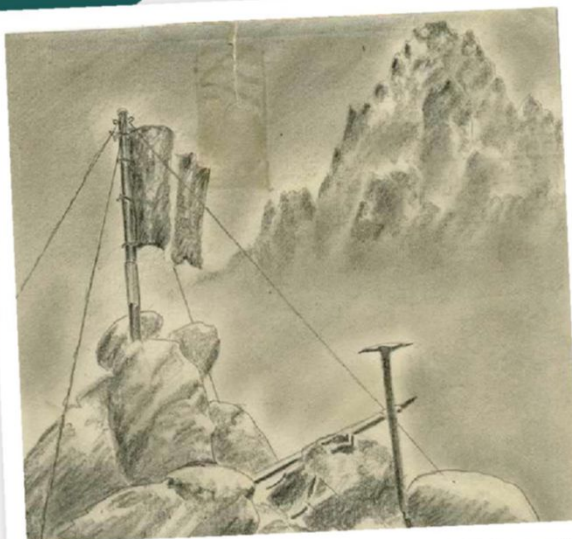
TOP SHOT

The mountain has multiple peaks – the best known of which are Batian (5,199 metres) and Lenana (4,985 metres). Benuzzi and Giuà had Batian – the tallest and by far the most technical – firmly in their sights, but they wanted to establish base camp between the peaks to give themselves an option if conditions proved impossible on Batian. Fate, however, and Enzo's failing health, had other ideas.

In Hausberg Valley, Enzo collapsed and Giuà declared he couldn't ascend any higher without risking death. This forced them to establish camp much lower than intended on Batian, and a long way from Lenana (9).

The following day, Benuzzi and Giuà reconnoitred their position. They knew Batian had been climbed before, but had no idea as to what route had been taken. Unbeknown to them, a hut stood on the far side of the peak, 300 metres higher than their base camp, right below the 'standard' summit approach.

Desperately short of time and rations, they opted to start from the north, traversing the north-west ridge. This ridge, they later learned, had been scaled only once before, in perfect summer conditions, by world-famous British climbers Eric Shipton and Bill Tilman. Even they had approached from the opposite angle



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

L-R: Benuzzi's sketch of Lenana's peak, complete with their flag and the unconquered Batian beyond; (top-bottom) Benuzzi, Giuà and Enzo reunited in the 1970s

to get around hazardous sections that were unavoidable from the north.

At 2am on Thursday 4 February (10), 'Batian Day' began. Leaving Enzo behind, Benuzzi and Giuà traipsed through the freezing pre-dawn to the foot of Dutton Peak, where they roped up. Double-lengths of sisal rope – designed to fasten bedding to bunks, and wholly unfit for climbing – now formed an umbilicus between them. If one slipped, either the other would arrest his fall, or they'd both plummet. This was put to test when Benuzzi faltered on a tricky pitch. Remarkably, the rope held and they continued upwards.

As Giuà led, Benuzzi left a trail of red paper arrows to mark the return route. After ascending a ridge they called Black Tooth, between

Northey and César-Josef glaciers, they began attacking Petit Gendarme at 11am, aiming for a gap leading to the north-west ridge. But, within an hour, Giuà reached an impasse. The weather turned, mist rolled across the precipice and temperatures dropped. For an agonising period, Giuà couldn't move up or down, but eventually, bit-by-bit, he managed to descend.

Bitterly cold and disappointed, they conceded defeat and began the return route, following their red arrows. Blundering back through a freezing fog, occasionally losing their way, they reached camp just before 9pm, having spent 18 hours battling Batian. They were greeted by Enzo, who had waited, without food, all day.

The next day they rested but, on Saturday 6 February, a final summit attempt began – with Lenana the more modest goal. Weak with hunger, Giuà and Benuzzi started at 1.30am. Their last torch died early on, and an error led them off course, after which they waited for daybreak by the moraine of Northey Glacier.

At dawn they mustered their remaining strength and began marching, reaching the



ridge by 8am and the summit cairn, via Lenana's 'handle' by 10.05am. Batian taunted their alpinist souls from beyond the Gate of the Mists gap, but the ascent of the plucky POWs was over.

Defiantly, they left a message in brandy bottle. It described how they'd: "Hoisted the flag of our despised country despite British barbed wire", and was signed with their names – pointedly omitting their prison numbers. Leaving the Italian tricolour flapping in the wind, they began the long descent, the final stage of an extraordinary flight of freedom. ☺

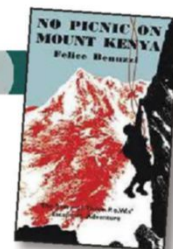
7

The number of days, out of a 28-day sentence, the escapees spent in solitary confinement upon return to the camp

READER OFFER

NO PICNIC ON MOUNT KENYA (2015)

Save £7 on Felice Benuzzi's first-person account of the adventure, *No Picnic on Mount Kenya* (first published in 1947 and republished with an extra chapter in 2015). This highly amusing and evocative illustrated hardback normally costs £18.99, but *History Revealed* readers can snap it up for just £11.99, including P&P within the UK. Call 01235 827702 to order, and quote offer reference **NPMK**. Offer valid from 31 March 2016 to 26 May 2016, while stocks last. ISBN: 9780857053763.



THE RETURN TO CAMP

The trip back to camp began at dawn on 7 February and lasted three days, taking the total length of the escape to 18 days. Having taken rations for ten days (14 at a push), the trio had only a couple of biscuits and a handful of rice to see them back. Nevertheless, they eluded sentries to enter the prison vegetable garden at night, surprising the POWs the next day. Remaining concealed for a day to get fed and washed, they presented themselves to the astonished British Compound Officer the following morning. After a short stint in solitary confinement, they were transferred to a harsher camp. Years later, the col between Point Dutton and the Petit Gendarme on Mount Kenya was named Benuzzi Col.



ESCAPE PLAN

During WWII, East Africa was an unforgiving place for POW escapees who, if they weren't spotted by humans, were still at risk from the wildlife. Leopards, lions, rhinos, elephants and buffalo are all active in the lower foothills of Mount Kenya. Exposure was also a potential killer. Despite virtually straddling the equator, temperatures on the slopes of Mount Kenya drop well below zero and in 1943 there were several large glaciers around the peaks. These POWs were climbing in the dry season – also regarded as winter. Had they reached the summit of Batian, it would have been only the tenth successful ascent.

1 CAMP 1 – NEAR THE NYERI-NAIROBI ROAD Sun 24 January 1943, also 9–10 February

Benuzzi, Giuan and Enzo slip into a gardening area, where they hide and wait for dark to make their escape. Camp 1 is set up just beyond the Nyeri-Nairobi Road. When they return, the POWs break back in the same way.

2 CAMP 2 – FOREST AND FOOTHILLS Mon 25 – Tues 26 January

Slipping past a sawmill and working parties in the trees, the POWs set up camp 2.

3 CAMP 3 – RIVER NANYUKI Tues 26 – Weds 27 January

As the trio moves further away from populated areas, they feel safe enough to light a fire and

have their first hot food and drink. Wednesday starts with a leopard attack and continues with rhino and bull elephant encounters.

4 CAMP 4 – RIVER NANYUKI, ELEPHANT ROCK Weds 27 – Thurs 28 January, also 8–9 February

Enzo builds a bamboo shelter by the river, beneath a rock visited by elephants. On the return trip, the three use this camp again on their final night of freedom.

5 CAMP 5 – NANYUKI TRIBUTARY 28–29 January

The group follows a tributary away from the main river, and is forced to clamber over many rocks. Progress is slow and they realise they're not carrying enough food. Overnight, Giuan develops a fever.

6 CAMP 6 – NANYUKI TRIBUTARY Fri 29 – Sat 30 January, also 7–8 February

The men believe they're half-way to the summit. Spotting leopard scat, they set up a large camp and light a huge fire. They use this spot on the first night of the return leg.

7 CAMP 7 – NANYUKI TRIBUTARY, THE PLATEAU Sat 30 – Sun 31 January

At a waterfall, the men are forced into their first piece of technical climbing. They emerge onto a plateau covered in boulders and giant heather. Camp #354 is visible.

8 CAMP 8 – THE FINGERS Sun 31 January – Mon 1 February

Passing towering rocks they name 'The Castles', Benuzzi briefly

develops altitude sickness. They camp beneath a rocky outcrop they call 'The Fingers'.

9 BASE CAMP 1–7 February

When Enzo collapses, a base camp is set up in the Hausberg Valley.

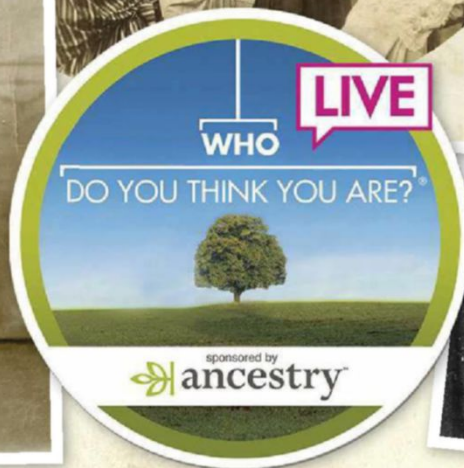
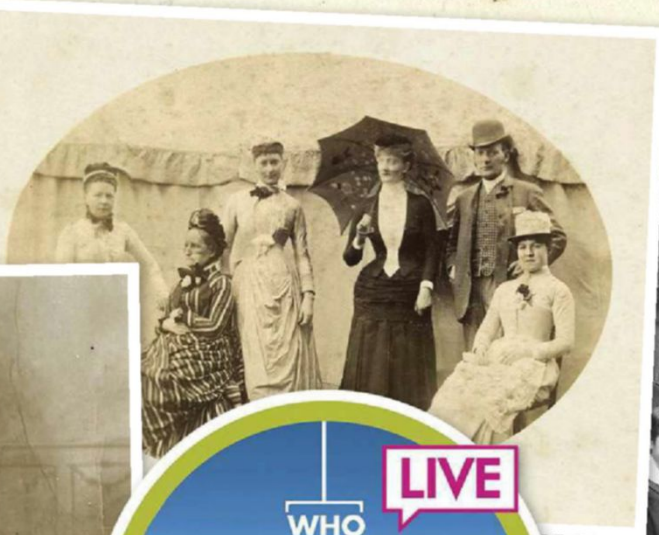
10 BATIAN 4 February

While Enzo stays at base camp, Benuzzi and Giuan make a failed bid to climb Batian. They reach roughly 5,000 metres before turning back.

11 LENANA 5–6 February

Setting off at 1.30am, Benuzzi and Giuan begin their successful bid to scale 4,985-metre-high Lenana (which is 100 metres higher than Dutton, but is obscured in the image above by the mountain's profile).

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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

IN A NUTSHELL p85 • **HOW DID THEY DO THAT?** p86
• **WHY DO WE SAY...** p88 • **WHAT IS IT?** p89

OUR EXPERTS

EMILY BRAND

Social historian, genealogist and author of *Mr Darcy's Guide to Courtship* (2013)



GREG JENNER

Consultant for BBC's *Horrible Histories* series and author of *A Million Years in a Day* (2015)



SANDRA LAWRENCE

Writer and columnist, with a specialist interest in British heritage subjects



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University



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TOP OF THE PYRAMID

The Great Pyramid of Giza was the world's tallest human-made structure for nearly four millennia



WHO WAS EGYPT'S MOST SUCCESSFUL PHARAOH?



Today, the most celebrated pharaohs, Cleopatra and Tutankhamun, can hardly be judged to be the most successful. The first lost her kingdom to the Roman Empire while the latter remained largely obscure until the discovery of his treasure-filled tomb in 1922.

So from an ancient perspective, the most successful monarchs were Thutmose III (1479-1425/26 BC) and Amenhotep III (c1391-c1354 BC), as they ruled Egypt at the height of its military, economic and artistic powers. Another candidate is Ramesses II (1279-1213 BC) - known either as 'the Great' or 'Ozymandias' in popular culture - who lived into his early 90s and defeated the Hittites at Kadesh in 1274 BC, history's earliest battle with details of the action. Arguably, however, it was the second pharaoh of the Fourth Dynasty, Khufu (2589-2566 BC), who left the most lasting legacy. He was the sponsor of the Great Pyramid at Giza, the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World to survive. **MR**

DID YOU KNOW?

IN A GOOD LIGHT

While waiting for treatment after the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, some of the casualties noticed something strange - their wounds were glowing. What's more, they healed quicker than their un-lit comrades, giving their condition the name 'Angel Glow'. In 2001, it was proved to be due to a soil bacterium, *Photobacterium luminescens*, which killed off other germs.

WHAT A GIZA!
An ivory statue of the 4,500-year-old Khufu

WHAT DID A LADY-IN-WAITING ACTUALLY DO?

Every queen or princess needed her flock of female attendants, a select few drawn from the high ranks to offer companionship and practical assistance. By the 13th century, there was already a firmly-established female presence at the English court – such as Eleanor of Castile's 'women and damsels of the Queen's Chamber' – and they were expected to perform certain duties. There were mundane tasks like making their mistress's bed, carrying messages, accompanying her on visits or being entrusted with her jewels. At her coronation, Anne Boleyn's ladies were on hand to "hold a fine cloth before the Queen's face" when she needed to spit. But while everyone hoped that the 'ladies-in-waiting', as they were known by the 1700s, would set a good, moral example of how one should behave in court, a royal woman would also use her ladies as confidantes or spies. **EB**



84k

The number of troops in the British Expeditionary Force at the start of World War I – compare that to 89,864 casualties the BEF suffered on the Western Front in the first three months of fighting.



THE RIVALS

Churchill once said: "If Hitler invaded Hell, I would make at least a favourable reference to the devil"

Did Hitler and Churchill ever meet?

Almost. In 1932, Winston Churchill was writing a biography of his ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough, so was touring some old battlefields of Europe. When he arrived in Munich, an intermediary organised a meeting between him and the rising force in German politics, one Adolf Hitler. But when Churchill

sent a pre-emptive list of questions to challenge Hitler's racial bias towards the Jewish people – including "How can any man help how he is born?" – Hitler cancelled. Months later, Churchill correctly predicted Jewish persecutions and pogroms, though no-one foresaw the scale of the barbaric genocide to come. **GJ**

DID YOU KNOW?

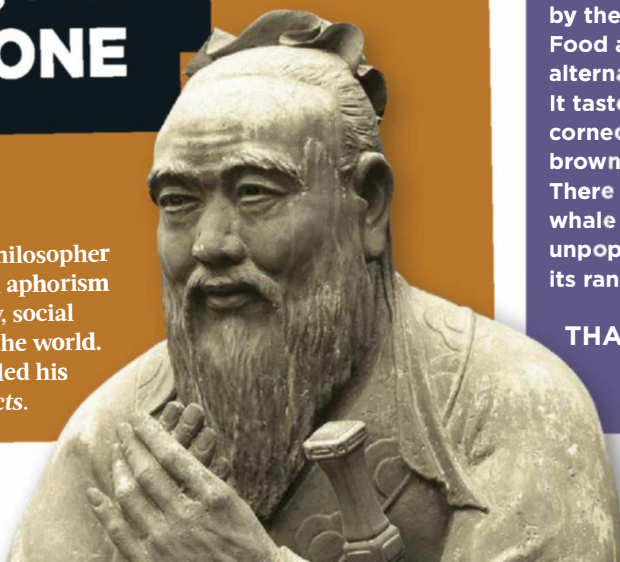
EARLY EPITAPH

The oldest surviving tombstone epitaph written in English is thought to be found in Stow Minster, Lincolnshire. It is for Emma Fulk, who died c1300, and reads: *Alle men that bere lif / prai for Emma was Fulk wif.*

“EVERYTHING HAS ITS BEAUTY, BUT NOT EVERYONE SEES IT”

CONFUCIUS (551-479 BC)

The Chinese political theorist and philosopher Confucius was never wanting for an aphorism to support his teachings on morality, social relationships and people's place in the world. After his death, his followers compiled his insights in a single tome, the *Analects*.



HAS WHALE MEAT EVER BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE CONSUMER IN BRITAIN?

Not only were whales available during the Middle Ages, but they were classed as 'fish', making them acceptable (along with beavers) for Lent, Fridays and other non-meat days. But ocean stocks quickly collapsed, forcing commercial whaling expeditions to venture further from Europe.

Just after World War II, 'whacon' – "corned whalemeat with its fishy flavour removed" – was positively encouraged by the Ministry of Food as an unrationed alternative to meat. It tasted similar to corned beef, but was brown rather than red. There was also fresh whale but this was unpopular thanks to its rank odour. **SL**

THAR SHE BLOWS!
Whalemeat wasn't rationed in post-WWII Britain



IN A NUTSHELL SUEZ CRISIS

What began as a feud over control of the Suez Canal led to a military debacle that Britain hoped to brush under the carpet...



What was the Suez Crisis?

With relations between the West and East on a knife's edge during the Cold War, Britain and France secretly colluded with Israel to stage a military attack on the Suez Canal in Egypt. The aim of this 'Tripartite Aggression' was to bring the strategic waterway under their control.

Why was the Suez Canal so important?

The canal had been created in the 1860s by the French and Egyptian governments. By slicing through the slim stretch of land connecting Africa to Asia, the Red Sea and Mediterranean were joined, beckoning a new era of international trade and travel.

So crucial was this 120-mile passage that the British quickly bought up a third share. Then in 1882, they invaded Egypt and took control of everything. This is just one reason why, after the Egyptian revolution of 1952, the new President Nasser was virulently anti-British.

Who was Nasser?

Gamal Abdul Nasser was a postman's son

who saw how imperial powers such as Britain and France treated the Middle East as a trade-grabbing playground, and swore to force their troops out. But the construction of the Aswan Dam across the Nile, which Nasser saw as central to his country's modernisation, required financial backing from the West.

At first, he was happy to play the US and the USSR against each other. His luck ran out, however, when he accepted Communist arms and the Americans pulled out of the Aswan Dam project. In retaliation, he nationalised the Suez Canal in 1956, wresting control from the British- and French-controlled Suez Canal Company, with the intention of charging for its use. This, Britain and France quickly agreed, was totally unacceptable.

Was a British and French military response inevitable?

The two powers certainly agreed that the Suez Canal should be taken back, and Nasser deposed if

possible, but outright military action was not viable. Not only would the United Nations never agree to it, but the British and French people were against anything that could risk war, which led to protests.

Therefore, they secretly lobbied Israel to stage an invasion and assume control, providing the pretext for them to step in as 'peacemakers'. Operation Musketeer began in late October 1956 when ten Israeli brigades entered Egypt and overran the forces holding the Suez Canal. Yet Egypt refused to take the invasion lying down, and it wasn't long before the bloodshed escalated.

Although militarily successful, few were deceived by the ruse, and the world's superpowers soon flexed their muscles.

So were the Americans and Russians in agreement?

Not quite, but the US knew how to pick its battles. While the Russians threatened to get involved on Egypt's side, so as to prevent what may have been an inevitable build up of aggression, the American President, Dwight Eisenhower, ordered Britain and France to withdraw. The realisation that

they had no option but to comply was a humiliating climb-down for the British and French, and a clear, painful sign that their days as world powers were truly over.

Did the backlash go beyond wounded national pride?

The Suez Crisis – which ended with thousands of casualties on both sides – was seen as a decisive blow for the British government, and Conservative PM Anthony Eden (an amphetamine addict overpowered by his hatred for Nasser) resigned in January 1957.

This was a triumph for the anti-establishment forces who protested against his government, and marked a shift in British society that would become more marked during the 1960s.

What was the lasting legacy of the Suez Crisis?

The post-imperial actions of Britain (and other Western powers) within the volatile Middle East – including the creation of Israel following World War II – lie at the roots of many major problems in the region today. At the time, even with the Empire winding down, British foreign policy still envisioned the nation as the world's policemen.

The Suez Crisis was a rude wake-up call. The very word 'Suez' became a codeword for the British, warning of hubris and embarrassment. And 60 years later, the Suez Crisis is remembered as a watershed moment in the decline of the British Empire, severely denting the culture of deference that had defined the country.

SCREW UP AT SUEZ
The Suez Canal, an artery of global trade, was closed between October 1956 and March 1957



CASUALTIES

The town of Port Said is reduced to rubble (above) while an Israeli soldier watches over Egyptian prisoners (right)



HOW DID THEY DO THAT?

THE ROMAN INSULA

Cramped, dirty, falling down and poorly equipped – but home for many Romans



As its influence in the known world spread, Rome transformed from a small settlement – legendarily founded by two brothers, Romulus and Remus – into a thriving metropolis.

With this success, however, came a population on the rise and a housing problem. The solution was a novel one: the *insulae*, the forerunner of modern apartment buildings. Each insula consisted of around half a dozen living spaces for Rome's middle class and poorer citizens, the *plebs*, as well as shops and businesses on the ground floor.

ISLAND PARADISE?

An insula (the Latin word for 'island') typically occupied a city block with roads on every side, hence the name. It would have at least five floors, but there are records of some reaching nine (despite height restrictions imposed by a number of Emperors). Depending on its construction, insulae could be cramped and uncomfortable. What's worse, they tended to be built on the cheap, using timber and mud bricks, so collapses and fires were common. Still, they went up in huge numbers – a fourth-century census claimed there were over 40,000 in Rome.

HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVE

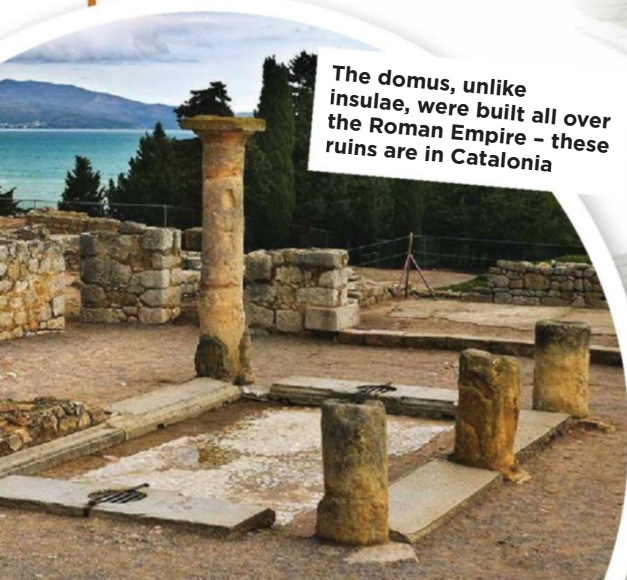
Wealthy Romans lived in a much more luxurious style of private housing, the *domus*. With a large atrium at the centre – where guest would be entertained – each domus had several rooms, running water, toilets and a porch or garden, called a *peristyle*.

SET IN CONCRETE

In order to keep construction costs down, insulae were partially built of wood. Due to regular structural damage and fires breaking out, however, an early form of concrete was used instead.



The domus, unlike insulae, were built all over the Roman Empire – these ruins are in Catalonia



LANDLORD WOES

The fabulously wealthy Marcus Licinius Crassus owned many insulae. Allegedly, he was happy on hearing that an old, dilapidated insula had fallen down, as it meant he could charge higher rents for a new building.

NOT SO HIGH-RISE

Attempts were made to restrict how high insulae could be built. Emperor Augustus put the cap at 68 Roman feet (about 21 metres), which was further reduced to 60 feet by Nero in the wake of the Great Fire of Rome in AD 64.

PENTHOUSE PROBLEMS

Today, top-floor apartments are the most coveted, but it was the opposite in an insula. The higher a living space, the cheaper it was, as it was smaller, only accessible by narrow staircases and more risky in the event of a fire.

HEAD ABOVE WATER

Although water was pumped to the lower apartments, it couldn't reach the upper floors. It was rare for them to have toilets, so people had to make use of Rome's public latrines.

CARETAKER

An 'insularius' would be appointed to manage each insula. Among his jobs was redressing complaints and making sure the building had buckets and axes to fight fires.

WASTE AWAY

The general state of an insula could be dirty and unhygienic. Residents would dump their refuse (and human waste) out of the windows on to the street.

WINDOW DRESSING

As the windows of the upper floors were small and shuttered, an insula had little ventilation or light, apart from what came in from the courtyard. Some of the more expensive apartments may have had enclosed balconies.

LOCAL SHOP

On the ground floor were small shops and businesses, selling their wares directly on the street, which gave each insula a greater sense of community.

WHY DO WE SAY...


**MAKE
A PIG'S
EAR OF IT**

Warning: this is one for the meat-eaters out there. While there is much to enjoy that comes from pigs – bacon, pork chops and sausages to name a few – the ear is a lot less appetising, unless you're a dog. It's also not very useful for any other purpose, so to try and make anything from a pig's ear is likely to end with a complete mess. That is what inspired the 16th-century proverb where this phrase derives from, which claims that it is a futile task to attempt to "make a silk purse of a sow's ear".

**WHEN WERE BRITS FIRST
GIVEN LEAVE FROM WORK
TO GO ON HOLIDAY?**

In 1871, the Bank Holiday Act established the first paid days off for common workers in England, while some senior managers could be granted extra leave. The Trades Union Congress called for holiday on behalf of the masses in 1911, leading to some forward-thinking employers gradually putting agreements in place, but it wouldn't be until 1938 that the practice was set in law, giving certain workers with fixed wages the right to one week of paid leave per year. **EB**



OH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE
Holiday-goers in the 1920s enjoy some fun in the sun during a holiday from work at Southend

3,000

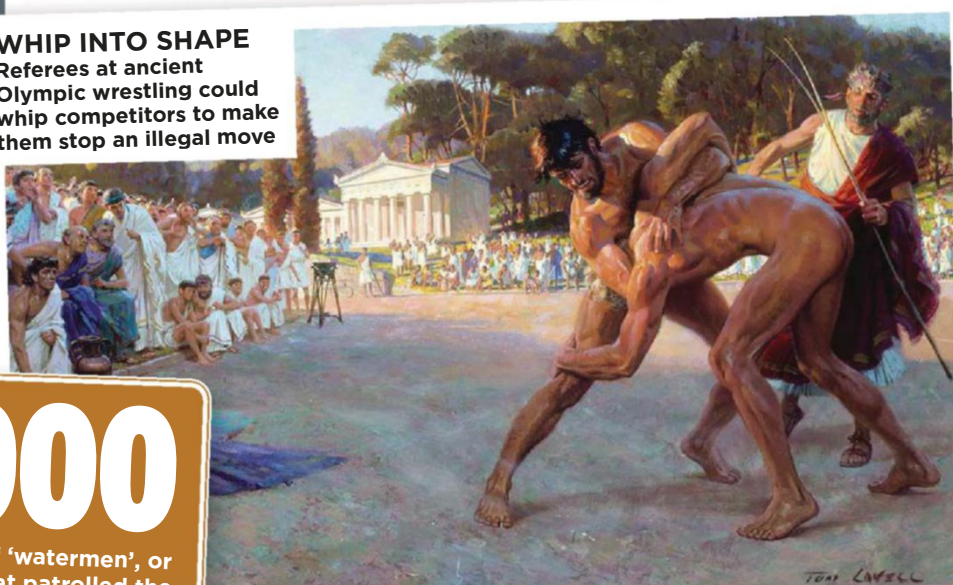
The number of 'watermen', or water taxis, that patrolled the River Thames in Tudor times.

How did **ancient athletes** prepare for the Olympics?

Unlike today, there was no prize for coming second in the Ancient Greek Olympics. Winning was everything, so athletes went to great efforts to achieve success, starting with arriving a month before the games so they could train and check out the opposition. Housed away from society, much like a modern Olympic

Village, Greek sportsmen were subjected to a punishing exercise regime in order to be at the peak of both physical fitness and beauty – they wanted to look good if they were going to compete naked. Diets were strictly controlled and competitors were expected to abstain from any pleasures, such as sex, which may physically weaken them. **MR**

WHIP INTO SHAPE
Referees at ancient Olympic wrestling could whip competitors to make them stop an illegal move



Who invented the **electric chair**?

After witnessing a fatal but accidental electrocution in 1881, New York dentist Dr Alfred P Southwick lobbied for electrocution as a humane capital punishment.

To that end, he modified a dentist's chair and began experimenting on animals. The electric chair's 1890 debut caused outrage as two shocks were needed to kill murderer William Kemmler, but the idea was soon adopted across many states.

In the course of his work, Southwick sought advice from Thomas Edison, whose electrical company championed Direct Current (DC). Edison secretly arranged for a chair to be built powered by Alternating Current (AC) to scare people into thinking it was more dangerous. Edison, however, lost the 'War of the Currents'. **GJ**



SHOCKING
The electric chair is still used in some cases today



PORTUGAL POWER
Under Spain's control, the Portuguese had to provide ships for the Spanish Armada

DID YOU KNOW?

MAN ABOUT TOWN

Alexander the Great was not a modest man. After extending the Macedonian Empire into North Africa and Asia, he created at least 20 new towns, all called 'Alexandria', and re-branded a further 70.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ONCE-GREAT PORTUGUESE NAVY?

Having prospered during the Age of Discovery, Portugal's Indian colonies were already showing signs of wobbling in the 16th century. Historians blame corruption, weak leadership, local mutinies and insufficient resources, but arguably the biggest factor was the loss of Portuguese independence following the Succession Crisis of 1580.

After King Sebastian's death in battle, and the sudden passing of his elderly replacement, Spain's predatory King Philip II launched an

invasion to unite all Iberia. Now unable to choose its own foreign policy, Portugal found itself at war with its traditional ally, England, and its Dutch trading partners (who were fiercely resisting Spanish rule).

This badly damaged Portugal's economy and left their possessions in India and South America vulnerable to attacks from the superior English and Dutch navies. By the time revolution restored Portugal's independence in 1640, the damage to the navy was already done. **GJ**

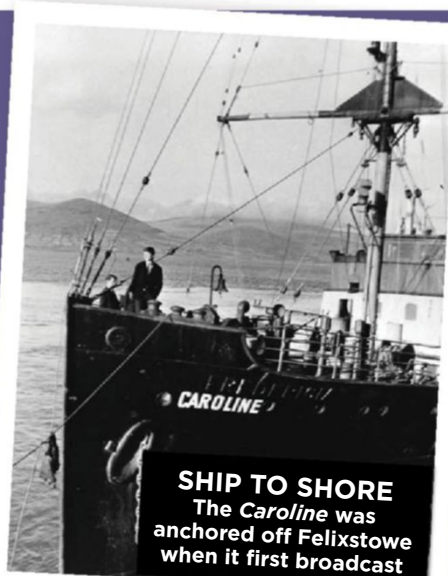


While on his epic voyages exploring lands in the Pacific Ocean from 1768-79, Captain James Cook and his crews collected a host of "artificial curiosities" from the civilisations that they met. With six shark's teeth tied on one side, this ornately carved knife was made by the Maori of New Zealand, which Cook circumnavigated over a six-month period. The knife is on display at the University of Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum, alongside other finds from Cook's first and second voyages. www.prm.ox.ac.uk

WHO WAS THE CAROLINE IN RADIO CAROLINE?

In the 1960s, indie record producer Ronan O'Rahilly was frustrated at how the BBC was in thrall to the major record labels. But as it was illegal to broadcast without a licence, he decided to take a ship out to international waters in 1964, and broadcast on 'pirate' radio.

O'Rahilly chose the name *Caroline* for the ship after being inspired by a photograph in *Life* magazine. It showed President John F Kennedy in the Oval Office, being distracted by his daughter Caroline. Supposedly, O'Rahilly thought this image of playful disruption of the day-to-day business of government fitted his intentions nicely. **SL**



SHIP TO SHORE
The *Caroline* was anchored off Felixstowe when it first broadcast

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Want to enjoy more history? Our monthly guide to activities and resources is a great place to start

HERE & NOW

PAST LIVES: THE REBECCA RIOTS p92 • BOOKS p94

ON OUR RADAR

What's caught our attention this month...

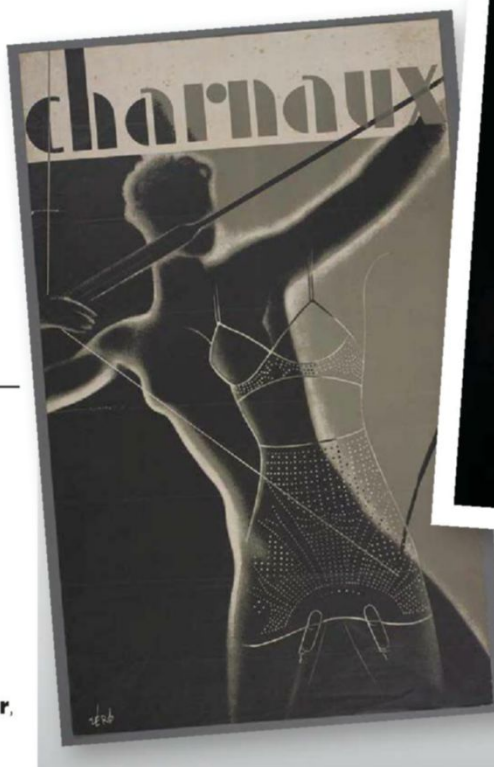
EXHIBITION

Undressed: a Brief History of Underwear

Runs 16 April to 12 March 2017 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Advance booking is recommended at www.vam.ac.uk

From body-squeezing whalebone corsets of the 19th century to Vivienne Westwood leggings (via **cotton drawers belonging to Queen Victoria's mother**), the V&A's new exhibition bares all.

The wardrobe of more than 200 men's and women's garments – which also includes Queen Alexandra's stockings and, of course, David Beckham's white pants – demonstrates how much **fashion has altered our underwear**, as well as how underwear has altered fashion and our attitudes to body shape in return.



L-R: 1930s poster for the latest by Charnaux; a 19-inch-waist corset from the 1890s; a c1871 cage crinoline to hold a skirt



EXHIBITION

Gifts for the Gods: Animal Mummies Revealed

Ends 17 April at Manchester Museum. Entry is free. Search at www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

In Ancient Egypt, millions of animals were mummified as offerings to the gods. With over 60 of these mummies – including **jackals, crocodiles, cats and birds** – this exhibition combines modern science with the historic ritual to answer why it happened, and what it meant.

To Ancient Egyptians, animals were a way to speak with the gods



TALK

The First Georgians

2 April, 7.30pm, at Connaught Theatre, Worthing. Booking is essential at bit.ly/FirstGeorgians

Over 100 minutes, historian Lucy Worsley delves into the activities of the Georgian court, and the life of **her favourite queen**, Caroline.

Act quickly if you want to hear Lucy Worsley this April





While at the festival, you may see some faces from the past

FESTIVAL

Who Do You Think You Are? Live

7-9 April at the NEC Birmingham;
whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com

To mark the 10th anniversary of the **world's largest family history show**, there is a packed schedule crammed into three days. There will be speakers, workshops, a Spitfire to explore and a host of experts – from **heirloom detectives to photograph daters** – to start you on own family history journey.



PODCAST

Days of Old

Listen at daysofoldpodcast.com

Created by history lover and re-enactor Bill Dungey, *Days of Old* is a new podcast exploring the **lives of everyday people** who lived through the 20th century's major events. Using diaries and letters, each episode is a **charming and evocative piece of social history**.

British pioneer Percy Pilcher with his Hawk Glider, c1896, which is held by the National Museums Scotland



EXHIBITION

Bird People

Runs until 10 April at National Museum of Flight, East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian.
 Find out more at www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-flight

Since ancient times, people have jealously watched the birds, wishing that they too could fly. The **National Museum of Flight science show Bird People**, which ends this month, meets some of the would-be aviators.

There's Percy Pilcher (above), who died in a glider crash, and medieval wing-maker John Damien. In 1507, **the Italian broke his leg in**

his attempt to fly from the battlements of Stirling Castle.

The family-friendly exhibition also explores the forces of flight that finally led to ground-breaking (well, ground-leaving) advances in aviation. Once they're mastered, you'll be able to **put your skills to the test** with some technical challenges.

RE-ENACTMENT

The fall of Newark

1-2 May in Newark, Nottinghamshire. For details, contact the National Civil War Centre or visit www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com

To mark **370 years** since the Royalist stronghold of Newark fell in the British Civil Wars, a re-enactment is planned in the town. For those not ready for battle, you can **try on armour, watch musket displays** and wave on as the troops march through the streets.



Newark was besieged three times before surrendering in 1646

► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

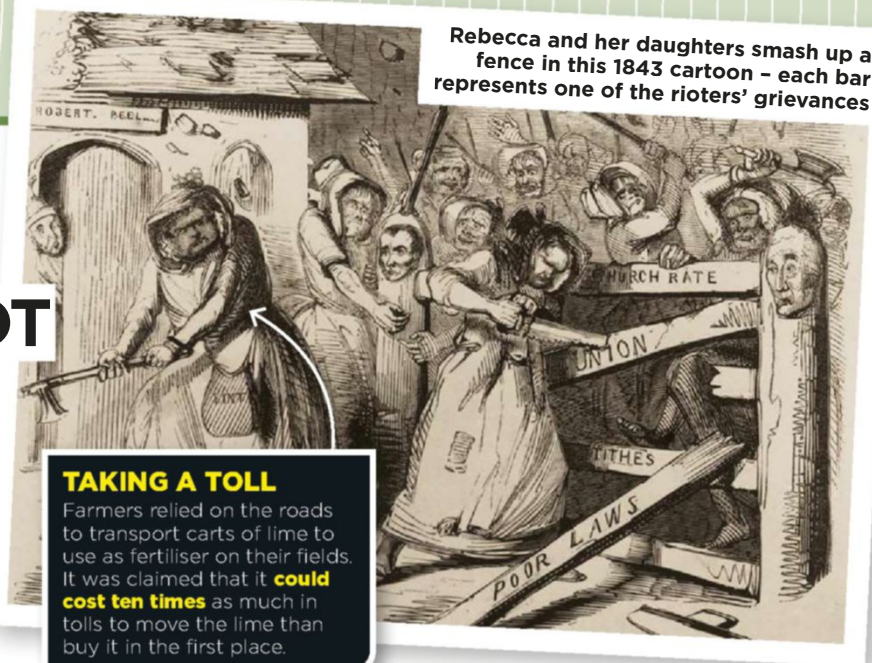
- The first-ever Bard by the Beach festival, 22-24 April in Morecambe, celebrating the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death www.bardbythebeach.co.uk
- Capability Brown: Making the Landscape starts at City Space Winchester Discovery Centre on 26 March, exploring how he changed the land. www.capabilitybrown.org

PAST LIVES

HISTORY THROUGH THE EYES OF OUR ANCESTORS

REBECCA RUNS RIOT IN RURAL WALES

Jon Bauckham relives the Rebecca Riots – when angry men donned dresses to rally against inequality in 19th-century Wales



TAKING A TOLL
Farmers relied on the roads to transport carts of lime to use as fertiliser on their fields. It was claimed that it **could cost ten times** as much in tolls to move the lime than buy it in the first place.

READER'S STORY



Kate Dunn
Bristol

When I was young, my family often talked in hushed tones about my great-great-grandfather – Hugh Williams of the ‘hundred bastards’. Apart from apparently having lots of illegitimate children, the only thing I knew was that he had been a solicitor and was, in some way, linked to the Rebecca Riots in Wales. It wasn't until some years later that I discovered Hugh had actually been seen as one of the key figureheads of the rebellion.

Born in 1796, my ancestor studied law and became heavily active in Chartism – a radical movement calling for political reforms including universal suffrage. When the Rebecca Riots broke out and protestors were arrested, Hugh defended many of them in court, completely free of charge.

The authorities, however, thought he was more involved behind the scenes and was stirring things up on purpose. The Home Office tried to intercept his mail and he was regarded as a very suspicious and seditious figure.

Learning about Hugh inspired me to write a novel about his connection to the riots, entitled *Rebecca's Children*. I'm very proud of him – he was a bit of a rebel, but fought for things I believe in today.



Late one night in August 1843, William Rees was rudely awoken by knocking on the door of his tollhouse at Trevaughan Turnpike Gate, in Carmarthenshire. It wasn't that unusual for him to be disturbed while trying to get some kip, as he was tasked with collecting money from travellers making their way along the bumpy road to St Clears.

But when William opened the door, he found himself surrounded by an angry mob, with three guns pressed against his chest. They weren't after money, but his toll book, which recorded the names of those who had refused to pay the charge. Terrified, Rees gave in to his attackers' demands, before they rode off into the night.

It was a lucky escape, as in recent months, scores of people had been destroying tollgates scattered across the Welsh countryside. Operated by private turnpike trusts, the gates had been installed on the instructions of English landowners, who then demanded extortionate fees to use their roads.

This was met with resentment and loathing, but to fight the fees, protesters chose an unconventional costume. With blackened faces and dressed in women's clothing, the God-fearing Welshmen dubbed themselves ‘Rebecca and her daughters’ – referring to the

Biblical figure who had spoken of the need to “possess the gates of those who hate them”.

It was an unusual tactic, but it appeared to work. At a court hearing, William Rees could not identify any of his attackers, recalling only the sight of “white

frocks” and “coloured handkerchiefs tied under their chins”.

SCENES OF DESTRUCTION

Many of the protests tended to follow a ritual, whereby a ringleader (‘Rebecca’) would stumble towards a gate like a blind, elderly woman. The ‘daughters’ would then clear the path with an almighty racket. A local newspaper recalled the scene after a riot at Llandeilo: “pickaxes, hatchets, crowbars, and saws were set in operation and the gate was entirely demolished.”

But the protests weren't purely about the tolls. For rural communities, mired in poverty, the gates were a symbol of gross inequality. Rents and church tithes were spiralling out of control, while the centuries-old Poor Law had paved the way for workhouses. After months of disorder – including the death of a tollhouse keeper near Swansea – the government concluded that the turnpike trusts should be merged and tolls reduced.

It was only a small step towards progress, but in this instance, Rebecca had won. 📍

GET HOOKED

There are thousands of historic Welsh newspapers, some of which contain reports of the Rebecca Riots, available for free at newspapers.library.wales. Documents relating to the events are held at The National Archives in Kew, with a small selection available to read online at bit.ly/20GJymN.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANCESTOR WITH A STORY TO TELL? GET IN TOUCH...

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Poor harvests and high prices led Welsh men to take action, by dressing up as women

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This exuberant and inspiring publication is designed to capture young readers' interest in all aspects of **Science, Arts and General Knowledge**. Ideal for 8 – 12 year olds, it tackles serious educational topics with humour and intelligence, encouraging children to think creatively and ask questions about the world. **AQUILA** also includes articles on philosophy and well-being that will foster a balanced take on life.

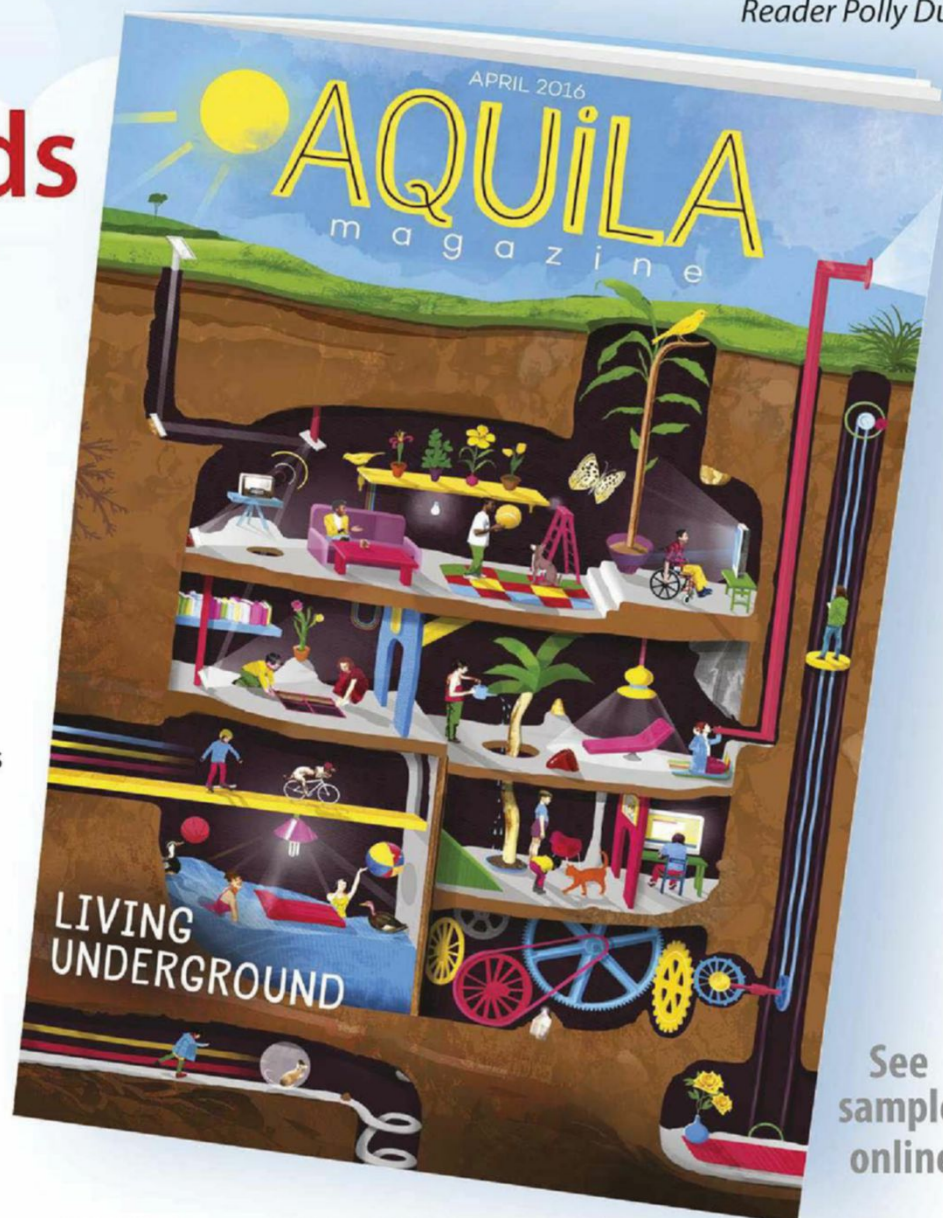
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"...it's like having 12 birthdays a year!"

Reader Polly Dunne



See sample online

APRIL issue: Living Underground

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Coming up: Roald Dahl, Egypt, World War II.



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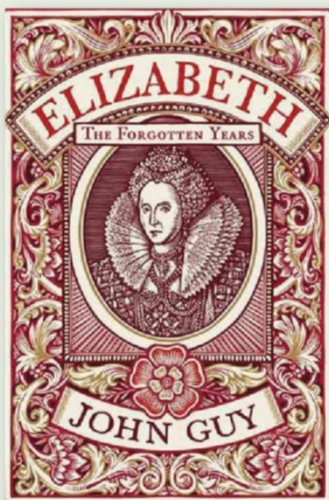
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BOOKS

A 16th-century
miniature of the
Tudor Queen by
Isaac Oliver



BOOK OF THE MONTH



Elizabeth: the Forgotten Years

By John Guy

Viking, £25,
512 pages, hardback

There is so much written about the 'Virgin Queen', Elizabeth I, that it is a big claim by John Guy that parts of her reign are at risk of being forgotten.

The acclaimed Tudor specialist, however, argues that we need to avoid seeing Elizabeth, who ruled England and Ireland between 1558 and 1603, through contemporary sources. He picks up the story in 1583, when Elizabeth is 50, and takes readers through the well-worn stories of the Spanish Armada and the execution of

Mary, Queen of Scots – and beyond. But within these familiar histories, he invites readers to see Elizabeth in a different light and recognise her for what she really was: a strong, tireless ruler.

MEET THE AUTHOR

John Guy is frustrated at how the same sources are used to draw a stereotypical image of Elizabeth I, and wants that to change now

What inspired you to write this new take on Elizabeth?

I've always found it irritating that Elizabeth's biographers seem to collapse from exhaustion once they pass the defeat of the Armada – skating over her later years dominated by war, or falling back on the same contemporary sources.

What did you make of her personality, particularly in the later years of her reign?

As a female ruler in a patriarchal age, Elizabeth was powerful and wilful, and yet vulnerable and afraid. A distant, unloved presence to most of her subjects (despite her beguiling rhetoric of being a people's queen) she fought tirelessly to defend her rights and prerogative.

Her execution of Mary, Queen of Scots haunted her for

the rest of her life, while her vanity and temper tantrums added to the court's feverish atmosphere. Elizabeth could lash out at anyone, from maids to privy councillors. Still, even at the height of the deadly feud between her advisers, the Earl of Essex and Robert Cecil, she never lost control of her court.

What questions did your research raise about Elizabeth's successor?

Elizabeth could be so abusive in her correspondence with James – Mary, Queen of Scots'

son. They ended up in a slanging match several times – she mistrusted him for his overtures to the Catholic powers, while enraging him with claims of being his protector since he was in his mother's womb.

Coming from the Queen who had killed his mother, this was too rich for James. Far from him being an incompetent bungler, James I and VI actually played a difficult hand brilliantly.

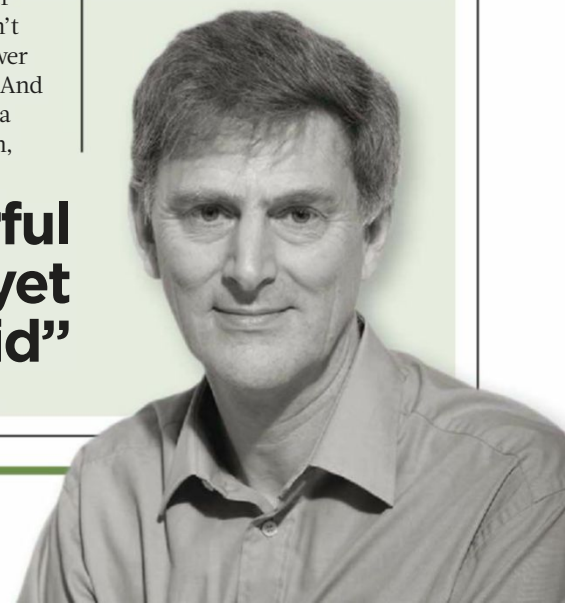
How would you like this book to change people's views of Elizabeth and her reign?

I've challenged readers to face the fact that a woman ruler in the 16th century, couldn't automatically exercise power simply by being crowned. And yet, Elizabeth, overall, did a great job. Sir Walter Raleigh,

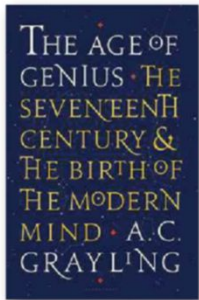
who along with Essex lobbied for a far more aggressive war strategy in the 1590s, damningly declared, "Her Majesty did all by halves". I just don't believe it. Her cautious, defensive approaches were the only way to match the tolerance of tax-payers to the measures needed to protect Protestant England from the Catholic powers.

The familiar trope that Elizabeth was a ditherer comes less from the facts than from the contemporary stereotypes about the alleged weaknesses and capriciousness of women and wives.

"Elizabeth was powerful and wilful, and yet vulnerable and afraid"



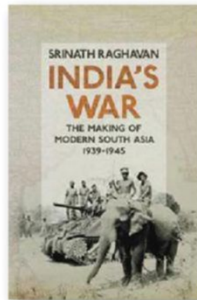
THE BEST OF THE REST



The Age of Genius: The Seventeenth Century and the Birth of the Modern Mind

By AC Grayling
Bloomsbury, £17.99,
368 pages, hardback

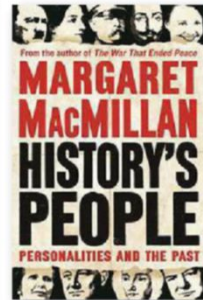
Why do we see the world the way we do? Much of the answer has its foundations in the 17th century, according to this exploration of modern thought by eminent philosopher AC Grayling. It's a fascinating argument – how such a turbulent period shaped the human brain more than any other.



India's War: the Making of Modern South Asia, 1939-1945

By Srinath Raghavan
Allen Lane, £30,
576 pages, hardback

The experiences of Indians is a less-told part of World War II, but still highly significant. This dramatic history from a former Indian army officer turned historian, touches on individual lives on the home front, but keeps an eye on how the conflict changed the country's relationship with Britain forever, and brought two empires to an end.



History's People: Personalities and the Past

By Margaret MacMillan
Profile Books, £14.99,
288 pages, hardback

Wake up. Go to work. Come home. Repeat. It can seem inconceivable how one person can shape history. Yet MacMillan has no doubt that they do. In her wry, lively study, she explores some of history's epochal characters and asks whether anything connects them, such as common personality traits. Entertaining, irreverent stuff.

READ UP ON...

GLADIATORS

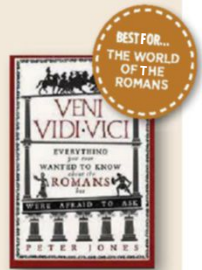
The bloody fights to the death, the roar of the crowds – we've all seen dramatic tales of gladiators, but how much is true?



A first-century marble relief of Rome's celeb sportsmen – gladiators

Veni, Vidi, Vici By Peter Jones (2013)

The Roman chapter of the popular 'Everything You Wanted to Know About...' series offers a great starting point to delve into the gladiatorial arenas. By exploring Rome's wider society in short segments, you'll learn everything from a gladiator's worth to how much sewage was produced each day (a lot).



The Roman Colosseum By Fiona MacDonald (2010)

With this jam-packed visual introduction, step into and experience perhaps the world's most famous stadium, the Colosseum. It gives a sense of what it was like for spectator and gladiator alike, and how such an impressive amphitheatre was built.



The Spartacus War By Barry Strauss (2010)

"I am Spartacus!" is a line many have said over the years, but this is the story of the one-and-only man. Both feared and admired by the Roman people, Spartacus went from slave to gladiator to freedom fighter, who led a rebellion that almost brought Rome crashing down.



VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH

In 1944, there were 450,000 Americans in Britain, from pilots to nurses



The United States Army Air Force was the largest and most powerful of the Allied forces during the Second World War.



At the end of the war, the American Air Force was the largest and most powerful of the Allied forces during the Second World War.

Somewhere in England: American Airman in the Second World War

Imperial War Museums, £15, 160 pages, paperback

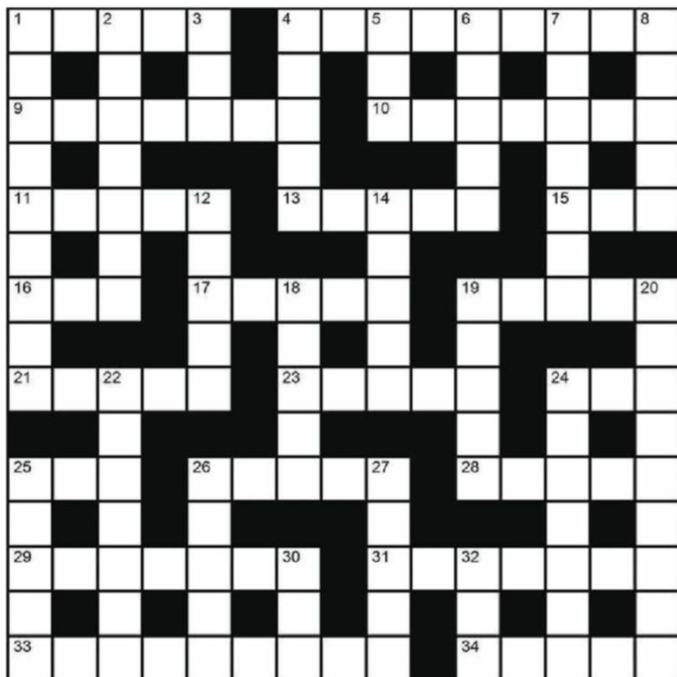
Published to mark the reopening of the American Air Museum at IWM Duxford this year, this collection features striking photographs of members of the US Army Air Force serving in Britain during World War II. The whole range of emotions is here, written plainly on their faces.



CROSSWORD N° 28

You could be one of three prize winners if you complete this month's historical crossword

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 1** Gilbert ____ (1720–93), English clergyman and naturalist (5)
4 Christian saint and bishop of Hippo from 396–430 AD (9)
9 "Ilium has ended and the vast glory of the ____" – from Virgil's *Aeneid* (7)
10 ____ Column, central London monument to a naval hero (7)
11 In German history, the term for a 'realm' or 'empire' (5)
13 Legendary King of Troy (5)
15 Beerbohm, Jaffa or Hastings, perhaps (3)
16 Title of honour in the Ottoman Empire (3)
17 Follower of Ancient Greek philosopher Zeno of Citium (5)
19 Two-faced Roman god of doorways and transitions (5)

- 21** "The ____ has landed" – Neil Armstrong, 20 July 1969 (5)
23 Port in Iraq, where Sinbad the Sailor set out in *One Thousand and One Nights* (5)
24 The birthplace of King Henry IV of France in 1553 (3)
25 Location of the Scottish Grand National (3)
26 Stone chamber beneath the floor of a church (5)
28 Robert Falcon ____ (1868–1912), Antarctic explorer (5)
29 Spanish city known for its Moorish architecture (7)
31 Manhattan district whose name derives from 'Triangle Below Canal Street' (7)
33 African-American Civil Rights activist (1913–2005) (4,5)
34 Land of the pyramids (5)

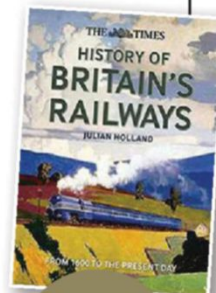
DOWN

- 1** Washington hotel complex broken into in 1972 (9)
2 Island south of Japan, site of a major WWII battle (3,4)
3 Acronym of the Basque paramilitary group Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (3)
4 Ancient Greek fabulist (5)
5 '____ Lane', 1751 print by William Hogarth (3)
6 Massachusetts settlement, notorious for its witch trials (5)
7 *The ____*, 1968 children's book by Ted Hughes (4,3)
8 Ancient kingdom of east England, now a county (5)
12 Hermann ____ (1877–1962), German-born author of *Der Steppenwolf*, 1927 (5)
14 People of the largest empire in pre-Columbian America (5)
18 1957 hit for Buddy Holly and the Crickets (2,3)
19 Sir James Hopwood ____ (1877–1946), English astronomer and physicist (5)
20 German city; capital of the Kingdom of Württemberg (9)
22 'Don't Let's be Beastly to the ____', Noël Coward song (7)
24 Greco-Egyptian astronomer and geographer, famous in second-century Alexandria (7)
25 Horatio ____ (1832–99), US writer known for his 'rags-to-riches' narratives (5)
26 *The ____*, 1931 film about a washed-up boxer (5)
27 Roman Emperor, 79–81 AD; conqueror of Jerusalem (5)
30 ____ on the *G String*, violin arrangement of Johann Sebastian Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D major (3)
32 'I Like ____' – slogan coined in the 1950s by supporters of Dwight D Eisenhower (3)

YOU COULD WIN...

The Times History of Britain's Railways

by Julian Holland
From the rail's beginnings in the 17th century to the infamous Beeching Report, join bestselling author Julian Holland on a scenic trip along Britain's iconic railways. Published by Times Books, £30.

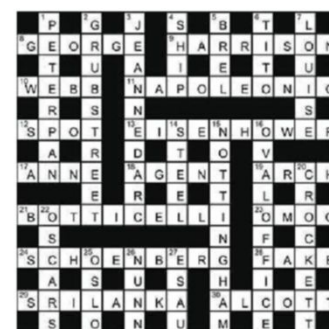


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SOLUTION N° 26

CROSSWORD COMPETITION
TERMS & CONDITIONS

The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemediacompany.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. The promotion is subject to the laws of England. Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited

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QUEEN-SIZED VICTORIA

Towards the end of her life, the ever-increasing circumference of Queen Victoria was greater than her height. While her bust size measured 66 inches, she stood just 59 inches tall.

A queue that won't be quelled

In 1969, Woodstock – the totemic and decade-defining cultural event – was almost ruined by a queue. As half a million festival-goers descended on upstate New York (ten times the figure told to authorities by the organisers), thousands of cars were abandoned in lines many miles long. The only way performers could get to the rural site was by air, so helicopters had to be frantically commissioned to save the day, as well as flying in medical personnel and food. Some of the choppers belonged to the US Army, an arrangement at odds with the largely anti-Vietnam sentiment of the gathering.

QUICHE QUARREL

Generally assumed to be a quintessentially French dish, quiche actually has its roots in Germany. Its name may come from *kuchen* (or 'cake'), and originated in the Lothringen, a medieval kingdom allied to the German-speaking population of the Holy Roman Empire. When the French took control in 1766, the region was renamed Lorraine – but its cuisine remained, hence 'quiche lorraine'.



QUININE OR QUIT

First used as a treatment against malaria in 17th-century Rome, quinine can be seen as a fuel of colonisation, particularly the annexation of West Africa by European countries two centuries later. Its discovery and use by colonialists prevented expeditions from being struck down with the disease, lessening the notion that the continent was "the white man's grave".

THE QUIRKS OF QWERTY

Designed and developed by Milwaukee inventor Christopher Latham Sholes in the 1870s, the QWERTY keyboard very nearly wasn't. At the last minute, he decided to make a change to the typewriter's ordering, swapping the R key with the full-stop. Until then, the top row read QWE.TY, which doesn't roll off the tongue quite so well, does it?

QIN AND QING

The Qin dynasty, the first dynasty of Ancient China, only lasted from 221 to 206 BC, making it the shortest of all China's 20 imperial dynasties. By contrast, its near-namesake, the Qing dynasty, was both the last and longest-reigning, ruling the country for 268 years, from 1644 until 1912.

THE QE2 QUIBBLE

Although launched by the current British monarch in 1967, the ocean-going liner *Queen Elizabeth 2* isn't actually named after her. Instead, its name alludes to the earlier Cunard ship, the *Queen Elizabeth*. This is why '2' is in the ship's name and not 'II', as this was hoped to avoid confusion with the monarch's official title.

Quasi-Queensbury Rules

The Marquis of Queensbury Rules, the basis of modern boxing regulations, weren't drawn up by the nobleman himself – he merely endorsed them. They were actually authored, in 1865, by a Welshman named John Graham Chambers, a man who packed plenty of sporting achievement into his 40 years.

Aside from his services to pugilism, Chambers rowed in the Boat Race twice, coached six further crews, staged the FA Cup Final, was a national champion walker and rowed alongside Matthew Webb on the first successful swim across the English Channel.



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